MINARI
ENDOU
5
MARIA+HOLIC

裁
JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED...
...AND YOU ARE THE JUUUUURY!

Prayer25
The Yonakuni Trial Part ①

MARIA HOLIC 5

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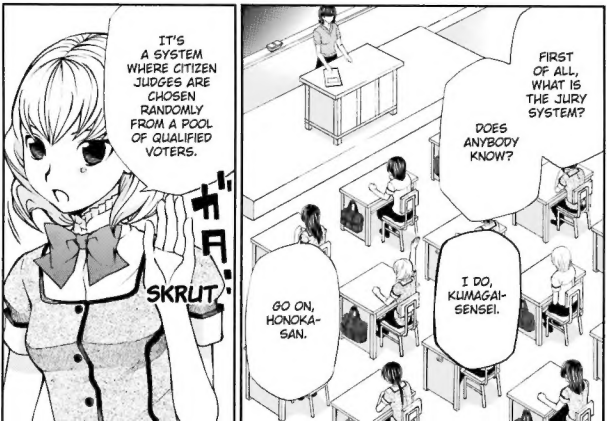
MARIA ✝ HOLIC

DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
LADIES OF THE JURY...
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE TRIAL OF MIYAMAE KANAKO, WHO IS ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING THE ADORABLE MISTER YONAKUNI!
...

JEEZ...
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
ALL RIGHT, WE HAVE AN EXTENDED HOMEROOM PERIOD TODAY AND NOTHING THAT NEEDS REVIEW, SO I'D LIKE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO TALK ABOUT THE JURY SYSTEM.
SINCE ALL OF YOU ARE MINORS, I'M SURE MOST OF YOU ARE THINKING IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
...BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD FEEL ASHAMED IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BIG CHANGES GOING ON AROUND YOU.
JULY 3RD
7月3日

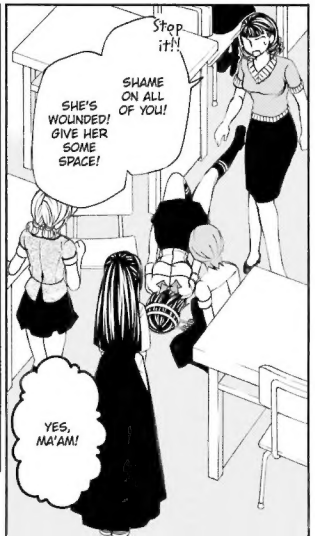

FIRST OF ALL, WHAT IS THE JURY SYSTEM?
DOES ANYBODY KNOW?
I DO, KUMAGAI-SENSEI.
GO ON, HONOKA-SAN.
IT'S A SYSTEM WHERE CITIZEN JUDGES ARE CHOSEN RANDOMLY FROM A POOL OF QUALIFIED VOTERS.
ガヤ
SKRUT

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
You can sit down now. じゃ座って
THE CHOSEN CANDIDATES RECEIVE AN ENVELOPE LIKE THIS ONE FROM THE COURT.
OF COURSE, INFORMATION ON THE CASES IS CONFIDENTIAL, SO IF YOUR PARENTS GET ONE OF THESE, YOU CAN'T POST ABOUT IT ON YOUR BLOG OR ANYTHING.
S'KING
YES...
?!
SPPOING
MA'AM ...?

SHFF
HOLD ON, KANAKO-CHAN!
CALM DOWN, SACHI-SAN.
SKRUT
CRASH
Yeek!
AN ARROW ?!
Yeek!
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?!
Aaaah!
Yeek!
HERE, TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT?
HERE.
!!
CRAK
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TWO WERE FOOLED BY SUCH A CHILDISH TRICK.
KIRI-SAN!
AS THEY SAY, A SINGLE ARROW MAY BREAK EASILY, BUT THREE WILL NOT.
THIS IS CLEARLY THE WORK OF AN ACCOMPLISHED ARCHER.
IT'S NOT ALL RIGHT AT ALL!
IT'S NOT THE ARROW I WAS WORRIED ABOUT!

No...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
No...
BUT NOW HER HEAD IS ON BACKWARDS.
THAT'S A TRICK TOO, RIGHT?
IT IS NOT A REAL ARROW.
IT IS A CHEAP TRICK, LIKE THE KIND YOU WOULD SEE IN A HAUNTED HOUSE.

COME ON, LET'S GET HER TO THE NURSE...
?!


Stop it!!
SHAME ON ALL OF YOU!
SHE'S WOUNDED! GIVE HER SOME SPACE!
YES, MA'AM!

POSTAGE
URGENT
桃井 サチ様
MISS MOMOI SACHI
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
DO NOT FOLD
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORM NUMBER TWO
THAT'S...
NOW, TO BEGIN...
...WE WILL HEAR A DETAILED REPORT OF THE YONAKUNI INCIDENT FROM THE PROSECUTION.
HYAN!!

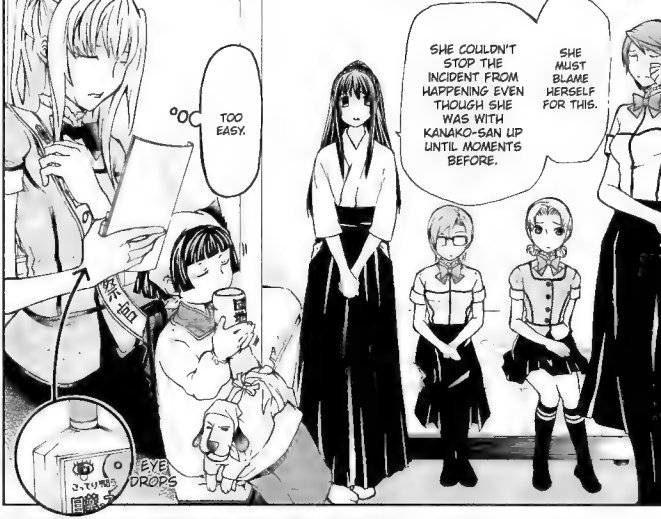
STEP ONE
THE PROSECUTION READS THE INDICTMENT
ON THE MORNING OF JULY 2ND, AT APPROXIMATELY 1:20 A.M., THE DEFENDANT, MIYAMAE KANAKO...
...CAUSED MULTIPLE INJURIES TO THE DEFENDANT BY REPEATEDLY BITING HIS BUTTOCKS AND LEGS. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THESE INJURIES WILL TAKE ONE MONTH TO RECOVER FROM.
YES.
WE ARE TO HEAR MIYAMAE-SAN'S PLEA, AND DECIDE ON PUNISHMENT.
Umm...
SO WE'RE ACTING AS THE JURY IN THIS CASE?
THE INCIDENT
CHOMP
CHOMP
I mean, really.
It happened in the last volume. Can't we just drop it?
I NEVER THOUGHT SUCH A MINOR INCIDENT WOULD TURN INTO SUCH A BIG DEAL.
I THOUGHT ABUSE AGAINST PETS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.
I don't see why we need to deliberate.

I CAN'T BELIEVE MARIYA-CHAN IS PROSECUTING KANAKO-CHAN.
IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
MAYBE SHE AND KANAKO-CHAN DON'T GET ALONG VERY WELL AFTER ALL?
SNIFFLE
I DO NOT THINK THAT IS THE CASE, MOMOI-KUN.
SHE WEARS THE MARK OF "SHUUSOU RETSUJITSU" ON HER SASH.

IT IS THE DESIGN THAT ALL PROSECUTORS WEAR ON THEIR BADGE.
SHUUSOU ...
...RETSU ...JITSU ...?
"SHUUSOU" IS THE FROST THAT FALLS IN AUTUMN, AND "RETSUJITSU" IS RELENTLESS SUMMER HEAT.
TOGETHER THEY SIGNIFY THE STRICTNESS AND RIGOR WITH WHICH ONE'S CRIMES MUST BE EXPOSED AND CONDEMNED.
SHIDOU-KUN'S COMMITMENT TO THAT DUTY IS REPRESENTED BY THE SASH SHE'S WEARING.

IN MY CASE, "RYU" IS THE CHARACTER FOR "HEROIC STRENGTH," AND "KEN" IS THE CHARACTER FOR "NOBLE AND JUST."
ER...
NO ONE ASKED YOU, ISHIMA-SENPAI.

BESIDES, SACHI-SAN, LOOK AT MARIYA-SAN'S EYES...
HER EYES?
OH!
GLEAM
NO ONE WOULD WANT TO HURT A FRIEND BY CHOICE.
I THINK IT TOOK A LOT OF DETERMINATION FOR HER TO MAKE THIS DECISION.


SHE MUST BLAME HERSELF FOR THIS.
SHE COULDN'T STOP THE INCIDENT FROM HAPPENING EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS WITH KANAKO-SAN UP UNTIL MOMENTS BEFORE.
TOO EASY.
EYE DROPS

STEP TWO
DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT
Uuu...
WELL... AH...
ALTHOUGH I ADMIT TO THE CHARGES, I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED AT THE TIME...
HONESTLY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
DITHER
DITHER

STEP THREE
QUESTIONING BY THE PROSECUTION
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THEN WHY DID YOU WAIT UNTIL ALL OF THE STUDENTS WERE ASLEEP TO CARRY IT OUT?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT WAS AN UNPLANNED, ACCIDENTAL ACT?

OBJECTION!
...CLAIMING THAT YOU FORCEFULLY ROBBED A CLASSMATE THE DAY BEFORE THE INCIDENT.
FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE A WITNESS TESTIMONY...
I MEAN, I WAS JUST SO HUNGRY THAT I... UM...
WELL, I...IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TARGETING HIM OR ANYTHING.
Momo's Sachi's marbles
STEP-FOUR
ARGUMENT FROM THE DEFENSE COUNSEL
...AND HAS NO RELEVANCE TO THE CURRENT CASE.
THE PROSECUTOR'S STATEMENT UNJUSTLY INJURES THE DEFENDANT'S REPUTATION....
...WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT THE DEFENDANT SUDDENLY ATTACKED THE HELPLESS VICTIM FROM BEHIND AND—
ALSO, SINCE THERE ARE NO INJURIES ON MR. YONEKUNI THAT INDICATE A STRUGGLE...
OBJECTION OVERRULED.
HYAN.
OBJECTION!

"ATTACKED FROM BEHIND"? SINCE MR.YONAKUNI IS A DOG...
...IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DEFEND HIMSELF WITH HIS FORELEGS, REGARDLESS OF POSITION.
TCH.
OBJECTION SUSTAINED.
JUST LOOK AT THESE LITTLE LEGS.
THEY'RE HOPELESSLY TINY, AREN'T THEEEEY?
HYAN ?!

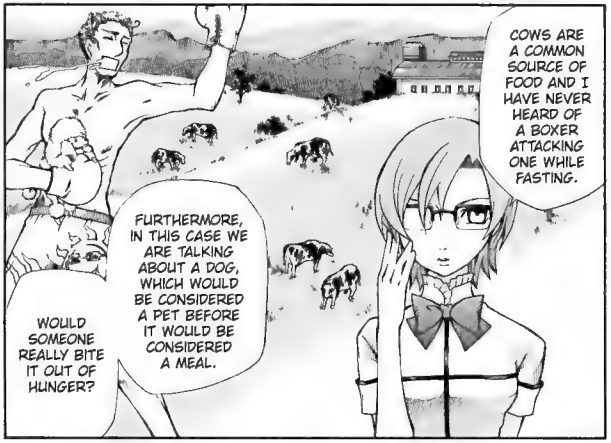
OH, SO MATSURIKA-CHAN IS ON THE DEFENSE, HUH?
YES.
I BELIEVE IT WAS MARIYA-SAN'S PERSONAL REQUEST.
MATSURIKA-SAN IS HER RIGHT HAND, AFTER ALL.
AND SO MARIYA-SAN MUST BELIEVE THAT SHE IS KANAKO-SAN'S BEST CHANCE.

HEY, YUZURU-CHAN...
JURY MEMBERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE STATEMENTS, TOO, RIGHT?
YES.
I THINK SO, SACHI-SAN.
STEP FIVE
THE JURY TAKES THE STAGE
YOUR HONOR!!
DOES THE JURY WISH TO SPEAK, MOMOI-SAN?

THE DEFENDANT WAS FASTING ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT AND SUFFERING FROM EXTREME HUNGER.
PERHAPS SHE LEFT THE ROOM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IN SEARCH OF FOOD?

SACHI-SAN...

NANAMI-CHAN?!
THAT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE.
YES, YOUR HONOR.
I SEE. SO, YOU'RE CLAIMING THAT MR. YONAKUNI LOOKED LIKE FOOD TO THE DEFENDANT... IS THAT CORREEEECT?


WOULD SOMEONE REALLY BITE IT OUT OF HUNGER?
FURTHERMORE, IN THIS CASE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A DOG, WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED A PET BEFORE IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED A MEAL.
COWS ARE A COMMON SOURCE OF FOOD AND I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF A BOXER ATTACKING ONE WHILE FASTING.

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, NANAMI-CHAN?!
THAT DOES NOT JUSTIFY VIOLENCE.
B-BUT KANAKO-CHAN LOST HER SENSE OF REALITY AT THE TIME... AND... AND...

QUICK FACTS ABOUT KIRI NANAMI
KIRI IS VERY BAD AT DISCERNING OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.
NANAMI-CHAAAAN!
MY LOYALTY LIES ONLY WITH THE TRUTH.
I AM NOT ON ANYONE'S SIDE.
UH...
ARE YOU... BRAGGING ABOUT THAT?
MISS HOUSE MOTHER AND I ALWAYS VISIT THEIR ROOM IN SEARCH OF SNACKS.
SHE HAS ALL THOSE DELICIOUS DESSERTS AND TEA, AND AFTER ALL.
IF SHE WERE HUNGRY, SHE SHOULD HAVE ASKED HER ROOMMATE, SHIDOU-KUN.
"RYU" IS THE CHARACTER FOR "HEROIC STRENGTH," AND "KEN" IS THE CHARACTER FOR "NOBLE AND JUST"!!!
Only one truth prevails!
真実はいつも一つ!!
Waiaiah
SOMEONE ELSE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, EITHER!
...THUS NEGATING YOUR OWN ARGUMENT, MOMOI-KUN.
BUT IF THAT WERE THE CASE, IT WOULD INDICATE THAT KANAKO-KUN'S JUDGMENT WAS SOUND, AFTER ALL...
HUUUUH ?!
AFTER ALL, SHE TOLD EVERYONE THAT SHE WAS ON A DIET.
BUT MAYBE KANAKO-CHAN WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY SHE WAS HUNGRY.

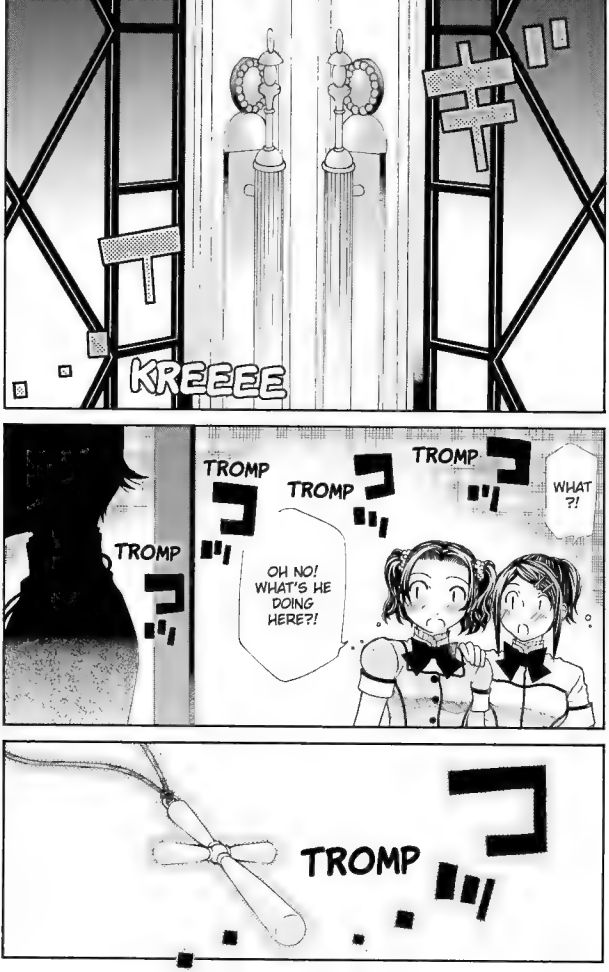
CRAP!
IF I DON'T BITE MY LIP, I'M GOING TO BURST OUT LAUGHING!
WELL, NOT MARIYA-SAN, I GUESS. SHE LOOKS REALLY SOLEMN, ACTUALLY.
CLANG
AUGH...
WHY IS EVERYONE GETTING SO WORKED UP?

SMIRK
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, KANAKO?
YOUR ODDS KEEP GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.

ARE YOU GOING TO SIT THERE AND WAIT FOR A GUILTY VERDICT?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE ACTION?
...

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC²


KREEEE
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
WHAT ?!
OH NO! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
TROMP

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YOUR HONOR ...
I WOULD LIKE PERMISSION TO SPEAK.
PERMISSION GRANTED.
THANK YOU.
WHAT IF MR. YONAKUNI MISTOOK THE DEFENDANT FOR AN INTRUDER AS SHE WAS ROAMING THE HALLS, SEARCHING FOR FOOD?
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT POSSIBILITY?

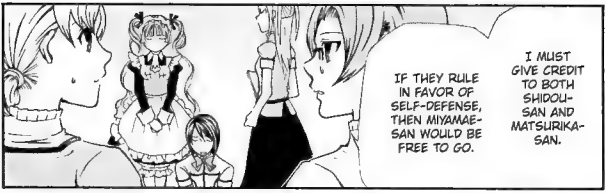
AS THE RESULT OF A CRASH DIET GONE WRONG, MIYAMAE KANAKO WAS FOUND GNAWING ON THE HINDQUARTERS OF YONAKUNI!
INCIDENT
THE HUNGER IS ONE THING, BUT THIRST IS REALLY KILLING ME
SO LOGICALLY IF YOU GET ALL THE WATER OUT OF YOUR BODY, YOU'LL LOSE WEIGHT IN NO TIME
GNAW
GNAW
GNAW
MYAOW!
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
MYAOW!
I CALL IT "KANAKO'S DESERT DIET"!
HOW WILL KANAKO'S CRIME BE JUDGED?
WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF THE YONAKUNI TRIAL?
WSSH
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR HAND THERE, SHALL WE?
TREMBLE
NO
NOOOO!
TREMBLE

?!
OBJEC-
TION!
THIS IS NOTHING BUT CONJECTURE FROM THE DEFENSE COUNSEL, AND—
OBJECTION OVERRULED.
DO CONTINUE, DEFENSE COUNSELOR.
THANK YOU, I WILL.

ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT MR. YONAKUNI ATTACKED KANAKO-SAMA IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THIS DUTY AS A GUARD DOG?
IN THAT CASE, KANAKO-SAMA WOULD'VE BEEN ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE, CORRECT?
HYUAALN ?!
HYA! HYA!! HYAEEEN HYAEEEN!
ORDEEEER!
CALM DOWN, MR. YONAKUNI.
HYDAH ...
NO ONE CONSIDERED SELF-DEFENSE AS AN OPTION.
VERY CLEVER, MATSURIKA.

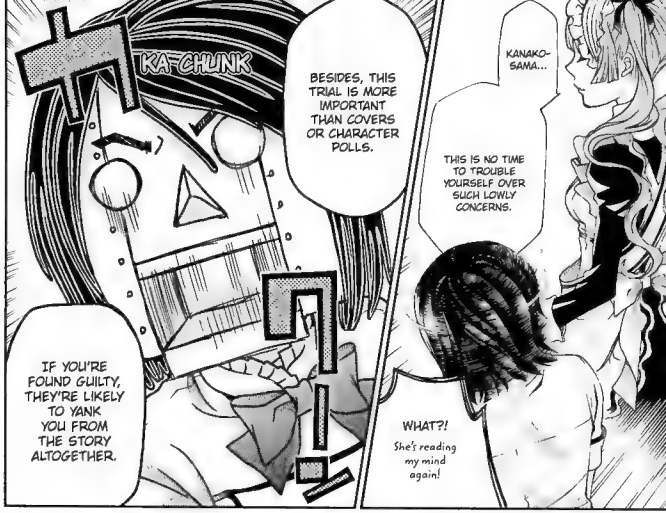
I SEE. SO THAT'S YOUR ANGLE, MARIYA-SAMA.
YES, I SUPPOSE MR. YONAKUNI IS A GUARD DOG, EVEN IF IT'S IN NAME ONLY.
BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO BEAT ME!
HYAN!!
INDEED, IN NAME ONLY, HE IS THE GUARD DOG OF GIRLS' DORMITORY NUMBER TWO.
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD BARE HIS TEETH TO PROTECT ITS RESIDENTS.
HOWEVER, IF THE DEFENDANT WAS POSITIONED BEHIND THE VICTIM AND WAS ABLE TO LIFT HIM UP, ONE MIGHT SAY SHE WAS NO LONGER IN ANY DANGER.
FURTHERMORE, THERE WERE NUMEROUS BITES TO THE VICTIM'S HINDQUARTERS.
A VICIOUS ATTACK LIKE THAT GOES FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF "SELF-DEFENSE."
THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET, MATSURIKA...
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE IN STORE FOR ME NEXT!

AT FIRST, THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE ATTACK WAS PLANNED OR NOT.
THIS TRIAL HAS TAKEN AN INTERESTING TURN.
HOWEVER, BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT YONAKUNI CANNOT SPEAK...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ISHIMA-SENPAI?
....THIS HAS TURNED TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT SELF-DEFENSE.


I MUST GIVE CREDIT TO BOTH SHIDOU-SAN AND MATSURIKA-SAN.
IF THEY RULE IN FAVOR OF SELF-DEFENSE, THEN MIYAMAE-SAN WOULD BE FREE TO GO.

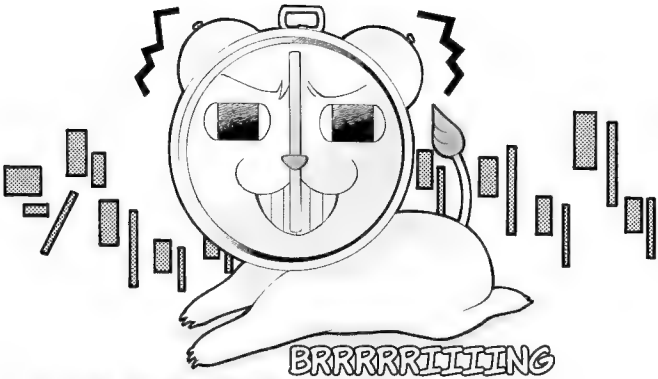
IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED "DAMAGE TO PROPERTY" INSTEAD OF "ASSAULT."
"RYUU" IS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTER FOR "HEROIC STRENGTH," AND "KEN" IS THE CHARACTER FOR "NOBLE AND JUST"!!
YOU KNOW, I WAS STARTING TO WONDER ABOUT YOU, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY SENSIBLE AFTER ALL.
NEVER MIND. MY MISTAKE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HANG IN THERE, KANAKO-CHAN!
GULP
TRUE.
ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT AND SEE IF SHE PICKS UP ON MATSURIKA-SAN'S STRATEGY.
NOW, IF KANAKO-CHAN HAS EVER BEEN BITTEN BY A DOG IN THE PAST, THAT WOULD REALLY PUT HER AT AN ADVANTAGE.
I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY EXPOSURE AS THE MAIN CHARACTER!
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE'S EXCITED BECAUSE "MARIAHOLIC" HAS BEEN TURNED INTO AN ANIME...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FEEL WHEN PEOPLE SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! I HAVE TO BE MORE NOTICEABLE!
THAT MEANS MARIYA MUST BE MAIN CHARACTER!
HUH?
BUT IT'S CALLED "MARIAHOLIC," RIGHT?
JUDGING BY SOME OF THE COVERS AND STUFF, YOU MIGHT EVEN THINK THAT MATSURIKA IS THE MAIN CHARACTER!
AVERAGE MANGA READER


KA-CHUNK
BESIDES, THIS TRIAL IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN COVERS OR CHARACTER POLLS.
IF YOU'RE FOUND GUILTY, THEY'RE LIKELY TO YANK YOU FROM THE STORY ALTOGETHER.
KANAKO-SAMA...
THIS IS NO TIME TO TROUBLE YOURSELF OVER SUCH LOWLY CONCERNS.
WHAT?!
She's reading my mind again!

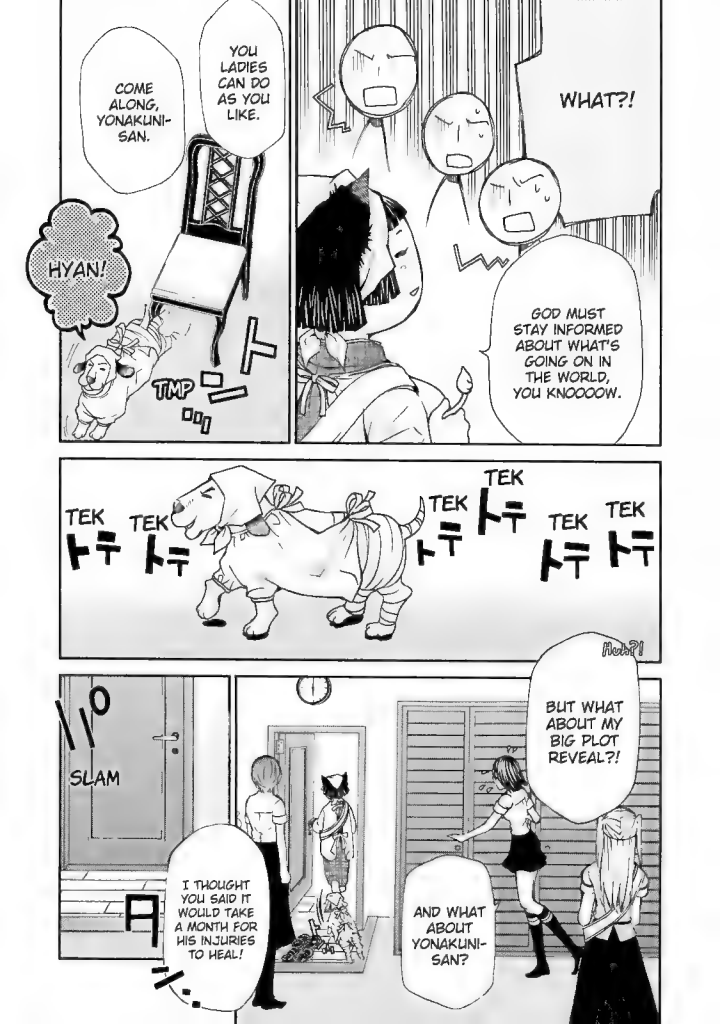
SMIRK
I SEE...
MARIYA REALLY IS USING THIS AS A CHANCE TO SEIZE MY SPOT AS THE MAIN CHARACTER!
AFTER WE JUST GOT AN ANIME DEAL AND EVERYTHING! THAT CHEAT!

BUT MIYAMAE KANAKO ISN'T AS SWEET AS YOU THINK!
IF MARIYA WANTS TO PLAY DIRTY, I STILL HAVE A TRUMP CARD.
SHFF
YOUR HONOR!!
SWIP
ACTUALLY ...
REMEMBER...
...THERE'S A LITTLE SECRET I THINK YOU ALL SHOULD HEAR!
I KNOW YOUR WEAKNESS!


BRRRRRIIIING

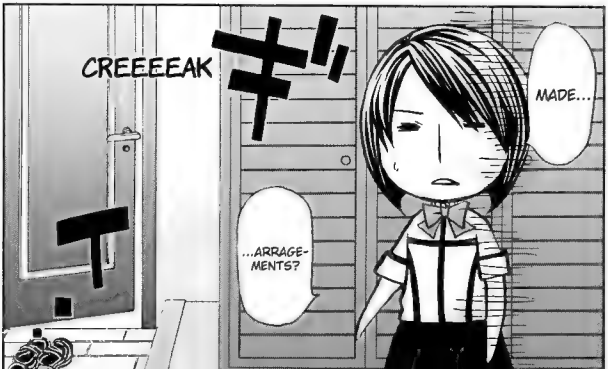
YESSS
IT USED TO BE MINE, SO IT'S STILL SET FOR SIX O'CLOCK.
Oh?
IS THAT KANAKO-SAN'S ALARM CLOCK?
WHOOPS
MY, MY. THAT TIME ALREADY?

WELL, IT'S TIME FOR GOD TO RETIRE FOR THE NIIIIGHT.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS!


COME ALONG, YONAKUNI-SAN.
YOU LADIES CAN DO AS YOU LIKE.
HYAN!
TMP
WHAT?!
GOD MUST STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOOOOW.
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
Huh?!
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY BIG PLOT REVEAL?!
SLAM
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WOULD TAKE A MONTH FOR HIS INJURIES TO HEAL!
AND WHAT ABOUT YONAKUNI-SAN?

SO...
AAAH...
...HOW DOES THE JURY RULE ON THIS CASE?
PERHAPS WE CAN SETTLE ON "DAMAGES TO PROPERTY," ACCORDING TO JAPANESE LAW?
HE IS A PET, AFTER ALL.
YES, "DAMAGES TO PROPERTY" DOES SEEM TO BE THE BEST CHOICE.
SINCE HE IS A PET.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE SENTENCE?
LEAVE THAT TO ME.
I ANTICI-PATED THIS CONCLUSION, SO I ALREADY MADE ARRANGE-MENTS.


CREEEEAK
キリ
MADE...
...ARRAGE-MENTS?

MIYAMAE... KUN...?
...BE...
...CAN'T...
RRRRRUMBLE
IT...
NYAAARLATHOTEP!
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS?! HOW COULD YOU?!

AND SO THE TRIAL OF YONAKUNI HEADED TOWARDS CLOSING ARGUMENTS.
THEN YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF WHETHER IT'S "CTHU-LHU" OR "CTHUL-HU"...
THEY SAY THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HUMANS TO PRONOUNCE HIS NAME, BUT YOU USUALLY HEAR IT SAID AS "NYARLATHOTEP" ALL THE AM. I SUPPOSE IS COULD BE "NYARLATHO-TEP," AS WELL, BUT PERSONALLY I TEND TO SAY "NYARLATHOTER."
"NYARLATHOTEP"?! WHY DO YOU UTTER THE NAME OF A FICTIONAL GOD FROM THE CTHULHU MYTHOS?!
THOUGH PERHAPS IT IS MORE LIKE, "C-THUL-HU." I BELIEVE LOVECRAFT HIMSELF MAY HAVE SAID...

AS PUNISHMENT...
..I WAS FORCED TO LISTEN TO FATHER KANAE'S HELLISH SERMON ALL NIGHT LONG.
WHAT A TERRIBLE TIME TO PASS OUT, MIYAMAE-KUN!
WE HAVE SO MUCH LEFT TO DISCUSS!
YOU MUST EXPRESS REGRET FOR YOUR WRONG-DOING!

SLUMP
H-HONEY...
...I'M HOME...
CHIRP CHIRP
CHIRREEP

MY, YOU WERE OUT LATE!
WAS FATHER KANAE PASSIONATE?
DID HE COMFORT YOU?
DON'T SAY THAT. IT'S GROSS.
STAGGER
WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, IT SOUNDS LIKE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ...

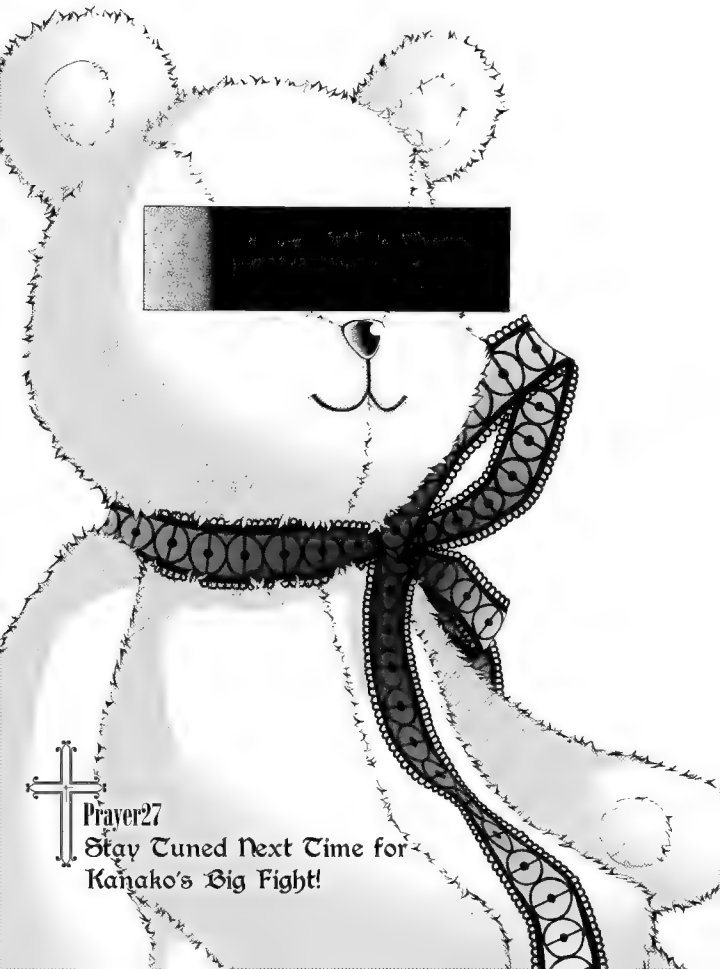
EITHER WAY, IT'S ROTTEN TIMING, ISN'T IT?
FINALS ARE STARTING TODAY, AND YOU'RE SO WORN OUT...
YOU HAVEN'T STUDIED AT ALL, HAVE YOU?

EH...?

FINALS.
FINALS?
TODAY.
WHEN DO THEY ...?
CRAP!
ZWOOSH
AND SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF AME NO KISAKI, A STUDENT CHED FAILED EVERY SINGLE ONE OF HER STINKING FINALS.
TEACHER'S OFFICE
AS A RESULT, THEY SET UP AN EMBARRASSINGLY-TITLED EMERGENCY TASK FORCE IN THE TEACHER'S OFFICE.
宮前かなこ 全科目赤点
緊急対策委員会運営本部
MIYAMAE KANAKO TOTAL FAILURE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE HEADQUARTERS

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC



Prayer27
Stay Tuned Next Time for
Kanako's Big Fight!

31
30
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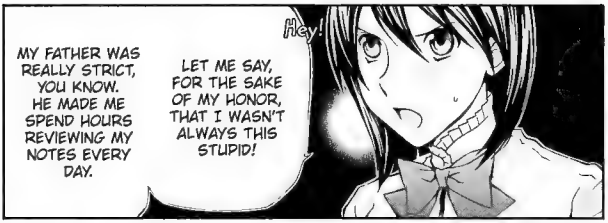
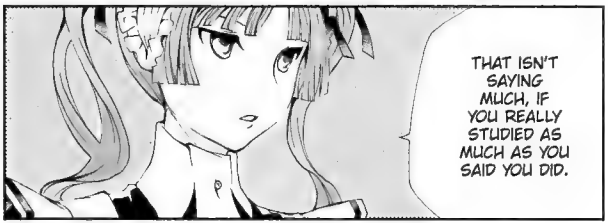
YOU FLUNKED THEM ALL...
UNBELIEVABLE.
宮前かなこ
緊急対策委員会分室
MIYAMAE KANAKO TOTAL FAILURE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE BRANCH OFFICE

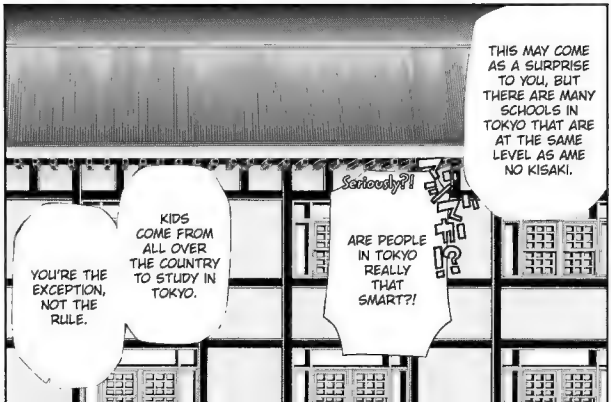

Hey!
MY FATHER WAS REALLY STRICT, YOU KNOW. HE MADE ME SPEND HOURS REVIEWING MY NOTES EVERY DAY.
LET ME SAY, FOR THE SAKE OF MY HONOR, THAT I WASN'T ALWAYS THIS STUPID!

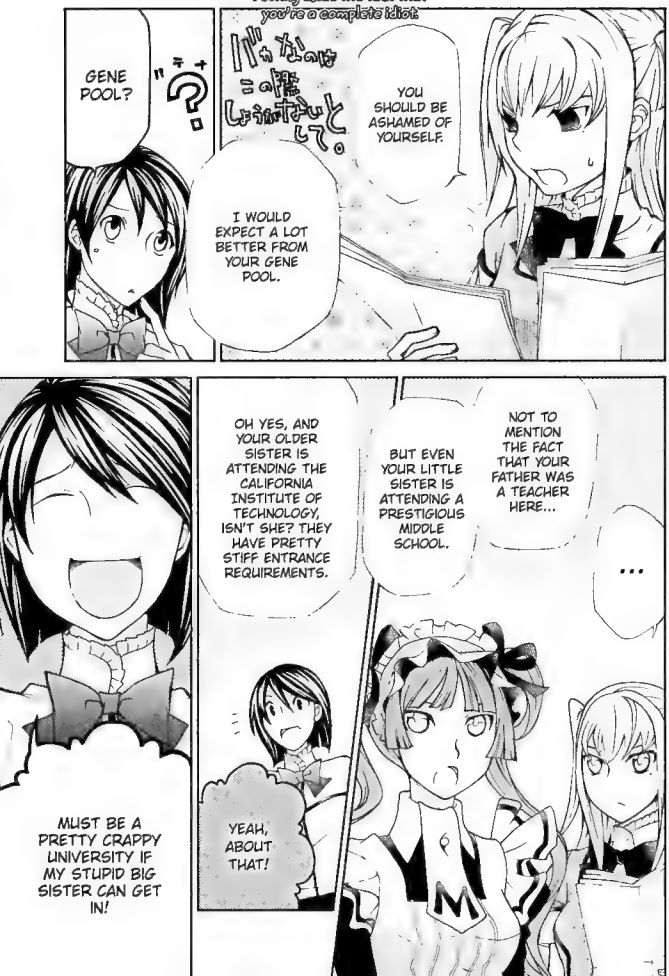
OH? AND WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT NOW?

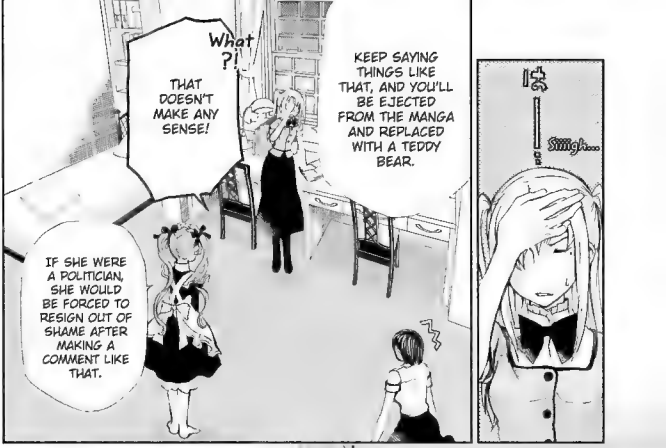
...BUT I WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN MEDIOCRE GRADES!
BACK IN MY HOMETOWN, I WENT TO A REALLY MEDIOCRE SCHOOL...


THAT ISN'T SAYING MUCH, IF YOU REALLY STUDIED AS MUCH AS YOU SAID YOU DID.

HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO FAIL OR ANYTHING!
THE GRADING CURVE HERE IS A WHOLE 20 POINTS HIGHER THAN IT WAS AT MY LAST SCHOOL!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT AME NO KISAKI IS SO ADVANCED!


THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU, BUT THERE ARE MANY SCHOOLS IN TOKYO THAT ARE AT THE SAME LEVEL AS AME NO KISAKI.
Seriously?!
ARE PEOPLE IN TOKYO REALLY THAT SMART?!
KIDS COME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO STUDY IN TOKYO.
YOU'RE THE EXCEPTION, NOT THE RULE.

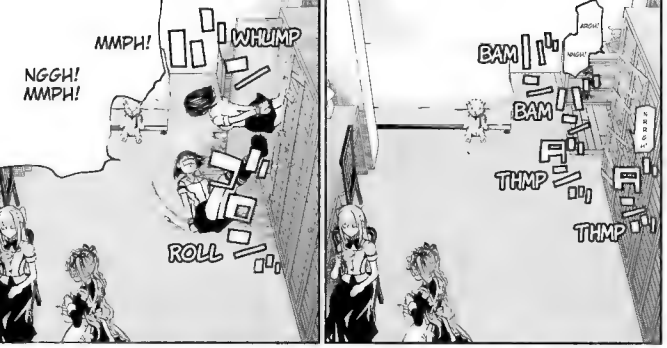

Putting aside the fact that you're a complete idiot
バカなのは この際しょうがないとして。
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF.
I WOULD EXPECT A LOT BETTER FROM YOUR GENE POOL.
GENE POOL?
キョトン
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT YOUR FATHER WAS A TEACHER HERE...
...
BUT EVEN YOUR LITTLE SISTER IS ATTENDING A PRESTIGIOUS MIDDLE SCHOOL.
OH YES, AND YOUR OLDER SISTER IS ATTENDING THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ISN'T SHE? THEY HAVE PRETTY STIFF ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT!
MUST BE A PRETTY CRAPPY UNIVERSITY IF MY STUPID BIG SISTER CAN GET IN!


What?!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
KEEP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT, AND YOU'LL BE EJECTED FROM THE MANGA AND REPLACED WITH A TEDDY BEAR.
Sssigh...
IF SHE WERE A POLITICIAN, SHE WOULD BE FORCED TO RESIGN OUT OF SHAME AFTER MAKING A COMMENT LIKE THAT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY SISTER WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ASSUME THE WORST OF PEOPLE?
LIKE WHAT?
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D SINK TO THAT LEVEL.
I MEAN, I ALWAYS KNEW SHE WAS HOPELESSLY STUPID...
LISTEN UP, KANAKO-SAMA.
CALTECH IS ONE OF THE TOP SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS OF STUDY.
NO WAY! THEN WHY IS MY STUPID SISTER GOING THERE?!
I THOUGHT SHE LEFT THE COUNTRY BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T GET INTO ANY SCHOOLS IN JAPAN!
Besides, it's on the West Coast, so she probably thinks she's just on vacation!

I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WOULD BRIBE HER WAY INTO COLLEGE.
CALTECH IS A HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL THAT HAS 31 NOBEL PRIZE RECIPIENTS TO ITS NAME.
CLAK!
BACKGROUND MUSIC: "SPRING" FROM VIVALDI'S "THE FOUR SEASONS."

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, CALTECH.
YOU HAVE OUR HEARTFELT SUPPORT.
INDEED.
CONSIDERING THAT THEY HAVE ONLY 900 UNDERGRADUATES AND SIX DIVISIONS, IT MUST BE ONE OF THE HARDEST SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD TO GET INTO.
NOT TO MENTION, THEY HOST THE FAMOUS JET PROPULSION LAB, WHERE NASA'S TECHNOLOGY IS DEVELOPED.
THERE'S NO WAY A SCHOOL LIKE THAT WOULD ALLOW SOMEONE TO BUY THEIR WAY IN.

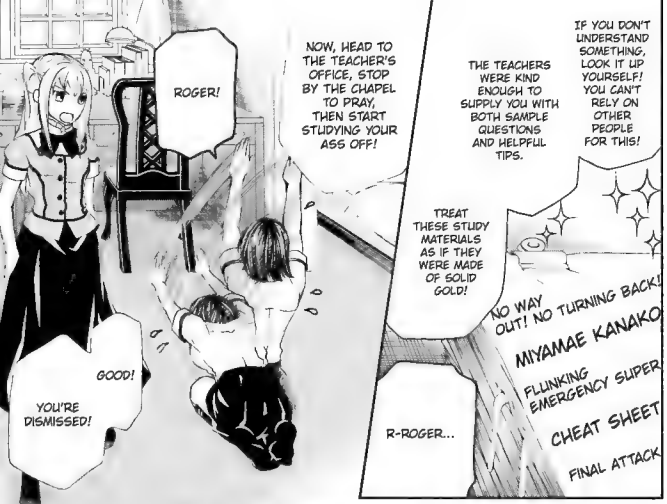

MMPH!
WHUMP
NGGH!
MMPH!
ROLL
BAM
BAM
THMP
THMP
AUGH!
NNGH!
NNGH...

MMGH!
NGGH!
MMMPH!
BUT THERE'S NO WAY MY IDIOT SISTER COULD GET INTO A SCHOOL LIKE THAT!
ALL SHE TALKS ABOUT ARE QUARKS AND Q-QUANTANTDEM NUMBERS AND SUPER STRING AND A BUNCH OF NONSENSE LIKE THAT!
WELL, SOMETIMES SHE TALKS ABOUT GUYS, I GUESS...
KANAKO-SAMA...
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING, AND SHOW MORE RESPECT FOR THE THINGS AROUND YOU.
FFGGH!
MMGGH!

CAN'T YOU JUST ADMIT THAT YOUR SISTER IS SMART?!
THAT'S NOT IT!
YOU DON'T KNOW HER, MARIYA! SHE REALLY IS STUPID!
WHATEVER. THIS IS POINTLESS. LET'S JUST WORRY ABOUT YOUR FAILING GRADES FOR NOW.
雨の最第二女子寮
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORM NUMBER TWO

THOSE TEACHERS DON'T WORK FOR FREE, YOU KNOW! THE SCHOOL CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THEM WASTE THEIR TIME ON YOU!
THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A SECOND...
THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.
CLOOM
しょぼーん..
YES, MA'AM.

I WANT YOU TO ACE EVERY SINGLE RETEST NEXT WEEK, UNDERSTAND ME?
BAM
HERE...
THE RETESTING TASK FORCE HAS PREPARED THESE MATERIALS FOR YOU TO STUDY.


ROGER!
NOW, HEAD TO THE TEACHER'S OFFICE, STOP BY THE CHAPEL TO PRAY, THEN START STUDYING YOUR ASS OFF!
GOOD!
YOU'RE DISMISSED!
R-ROGER...
TREAT THESE STUDY MATERIALS AS IF THEY WERE MADE OF SOLID GOLD!
THE TEACHERS WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SUPPLY YOU WITH BOTH SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND HELPFUL TIPS.
IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, LOOK IT UP YOURSELF! YOU CAN'T RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE FOR THIS!
NO WAY OUT! NO TURNING BACK!
MIYAMAE KANAKO
FLUNKING EMERGENCY SUPER CHEAT SHEET
FINAL ATTACK

What?!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP ME?!
YOU HEARD HIM.
YOU'RE DISMISSED!

BAM

TCH!
CLAK
HE'S SUCH AN UNRELIABLE LITTLE BRAT.
SIGH
TRANING HALL
SLAM

パ
PAFT
ン
OH!
SHIDOU'S HERE!

THE ONLY THING THAT'S SOFT IS YOUR FLABBY TUMMY, CAPTAIN!
YAMAKI ?!
NO GRABBING! THAT'S SEXUAL HARASS-MENT!
SQUISHY SQUISHY!

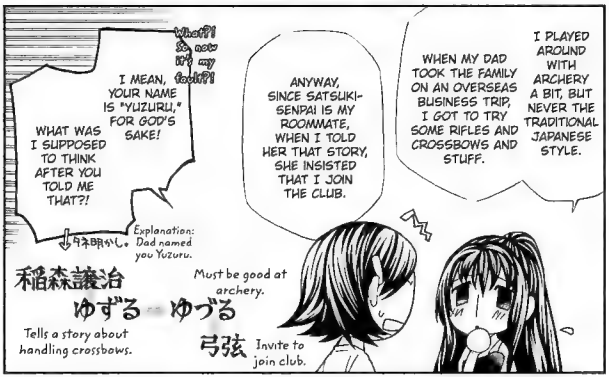
SORRY I'M LATE.
WE'VE STARTED PRACTICE ALREADY.
YOU'RE GETTING SOFT, SHIDOU.

SHE'S A NATURAL.
SHE'S ONLY BEEN AT IT FOR THREE MONTHS.
SHE GOOFS AROUND A LOT, BUT SHE'S A GOOD SHOT.
THEY CHOSE ME AS AN ALTERNATE FOR THE TEAM EVENT.
OH, YOU'RE HERE TOO, KOMCHI-SAN?

TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T GET INTO ARCHERY UNTIL I TRANSFERRED HERE, EITHER.
WHAT?!

YOU ONLY GOT INTO ARCHERY AFTER YOU TRANSFERRED TO AME NO KISAKI, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT, TSUMUGI-CHAN-SENPAI!
ACTUALLY, I JOINED THE CLUB TO HANG OUT WITH MARIYA-CHAN. I'M A BIG FAN!
DON'T SAY THAT IN FRONT OF THE CAPTAIN!

For real?
I'M SORRY I CAN'T LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
MY FATHER IS A DIPLOMAT, BY THE WAY.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR NAME?! "YU" MEANS "BOW," AND "ZURU" IS "BOWSTRING"!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE DAUGHTER OF SOME FAMOUS ARCHER OR SOMETHING!


What?! So, now it's my fault?!
I MEAN, YOUR NAME IS "YUZURU," FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO THINK AFTER YOU TOLD ME THAT?!
Explanation: Dad named you Yuzuru.
稲森譲治
ゆずる = ゆづる
Tells a story about handling crossbows.
Must be good at archery.
弓弦
Invite to join club.
ANYWAY, SINCE SATSUKI-SENPAI IS MY ROOMMATE, WHEN I TOLD HER THAT STORY, SHE INSISTED THAT I JOIN THE CLUB.
WHEN MY DAD TOOK THE FAMILY ON AN OVERSEAS BUSINESS TRIP, I GOT TO TRY SOME RIFLES AND CROSSBOWS AND STUFF.
I PLAYED AROUND WITH ARCHERY A BIT, BUT NEVER THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE STYLE.

WELL... WE STARTED WHEN WE WERE IN KINDERGARTEN, AFTER ALL.
AND SINCE WE HAVE OUR OWN PRACTICE RANGE, WE HAVE A BIT OF AN ADVANTAGE...
YOUR BROTHER WAS REALLY GOOD TOO, RIGHT?
I REMEMBER THE JUDGES WOULDN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT IT.
YOU REACHED THE RANK OF THIRD DAN WHEN YOU WERE ONLY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
SO THAT MEANS MARIYA-CHAN IS THE MOST EXPERIENCED MEMBER.

KA CHAK
BUT I'VE BEEN PRACTICING FOR 15 YEARS AND I'M ONLY SIXTH DAN. WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ME?
NO WAY!
CONSIDERING THAT INAMORI-SENPAI ONLY STARTED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND IS ALREADY SECOND DAN...
...I THINK SHE'S THE BETTER ARCHER.
NURSE TONOMURA!
SHIDOU-SAN...
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MODEST ONE SHOULD BE.

YES, MA'AM.
YOU SHOULD THANK PEOPLE FOR THE COMPLIMENT AND BE GRATEFUL.
WHY IS THAT?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY COMPETITORS? IS IT BECAUSE YOU ARE BEING WATCHED?
YOU KNOW... IT CAN BE QUITE EASY TO HIT A TARGET DURING PRACTICE, BUT QUITE DIFFICULT TO HIT THE SAME TARGET DURING A COMPETITION.
WHY IS IT THAT ONE CANNOT FACE THE TARGET IN THE SAME WAY AT DIFFERENT TIMES? KEEP ASKING YOURSELF THAT QUESTION.
WHEN YOU FIND THE ANSWER, YOUR ARROW WILL FIND ITS WAY TO THE TARGET, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCE.
BOTH THE TARGET AND THE MEANS OF REACHING IT LIE WITHIN YOU.
YES, MA'AM!

THE INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET IS COMING UP.
THERE ARE TWO SLOTS FOR EACH TEAM, AREN'T THERE?
SHOULDN'T THEY GO TO YOU AND MARIYA-CHAN?
REGARDLESS, IT'S STILL SOMETHING I HAVE TO EARN.
I HOPE YOU DO WELL.
IN THE SINGLES, I MEAN.

I KNOW THAT WANTING SOMETHING DOESN'T MEAN I CAN HAVE IT.
AND I KNOW THAT I MAY NOT BE THE STRONGEST...
...BUT I WANT A SPOT ON THE ALL-STAR TEAM.
OF COURSE.
LET'S DO OUR BEST.
AND THAT MEANS...
THAT MEANS...
...I'M AIMING FOR FIRST PLACE.

IN THAT CASE, I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.
BYE, EVERY-BODY!
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

YOUR BROTHER FROM MIHOSHI NO MORI...
...HE'S ENTERTING THE SINGLES COMPETITION TOO, RIGHT?
YES.
UNFORTUNATELY HE WASN'T ABLE TO GET INTO THE TEAM COMPETITION, THOUGH.
STILL, IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE BOTH COMPETING IN THE INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT ARCHERY IS ONE OF THE FEW SPORTS WHERE MEN AND WOMEN GET TO COMPETE TOGETHER.

I USED TO PLAY SOCCER WITH MY BROTHER.
AT FIRST, I WAS A LOT BETTER THAN HIM, BUT AS TIME WENT BY, HE REALLY TOOK OFF...
I WAS SAD WHEN I COULDN'T KEEP UP ANYMORE, SO I QUIT.

MY BROTHER AND I CHOSE A SPORT WE COULD BOTH COMPETE IN FOR A LONG TIME.
OF COURSE, IN THE LONG-RANGE COMPETITIONS, MEN WHO USE HEAVIER BOWS MIGHT STILL HAVE AN ADVANTAGE, BUT STILL...

MUST BE NICE.
I THINK MY BROTHER IS GOING THROUGH A REBELLIOUS STAGE OR SOMETHING. HE WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME WHEN WE'RE BOTH HOME.
I THINK BEING *TOO* CLOSE HAS ITS PITFALLS, TOO.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD BOTH...
...TRY TO EXPAND OUR HORIZONS.

KNOCK KNOCK
HUH?
WHERE DID SHE GO?
HER STUDY GUIDE IS GONE, TOO...
YOU DON'T THINK SHE RAN AWAY, DO YOU?

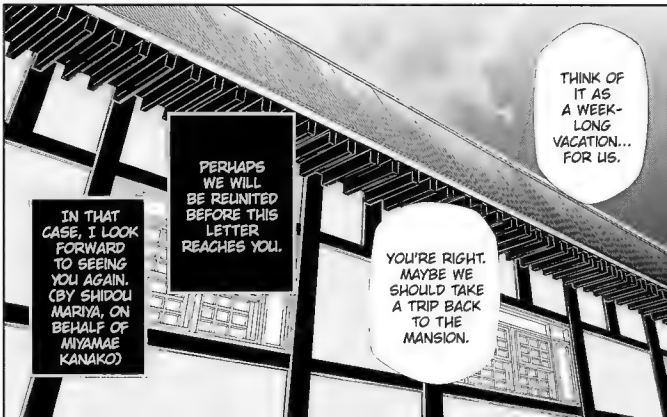
HUH?
DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR LITTLE HEAD.
ABOUT MIYAMAE-SAN?
I'VE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF MIYAMAE-SAN'S TOTAL FAILURE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
I'M THE BOSS
I SEE.
PING

WELCOME HOME, SHIDOU-SAN.
I ASSUME YOU WERE OUT TRAINING FOR THE INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET?
HRUFF HRUFF!
AH, YES, BUT I NEED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING...

NO WORK AND ALL PLAY EVERY DAY... RARELY DOING HER HOMEWORK, LET ALONE PREP AND REVIEW...
GIVEN THE KIND OF LIFESTYLE SHE'S BEEN LIVING, WE ALL SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS COOOOOMING.
AND YET, I CAN'T DENY MY OWN RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS TRAAAGEDY.
PITTER PATTER
HALT
MIYAMAE KANOKO TOTAL FAILURE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE
OH, MY...
PING
PING
PING
BUT EVEN IF WE HAD ANOTHER WEEK TO STUDY, I DON'T THINK WE COULD FILL THE GAP.
IT'S NOT JUST A DIFFERENCE IN ACADEMIC ABILITIES THAT WE'RE FIGHTING AGAINST, BUT A HARSHER GRADING CURVE AS WELL.
AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW I SEE IT.
BUT I HAVE A PLAN.
WE WILL PUT MIYAMAE-SAN IN A SPECIAL CHAMBER WHERE TIME FLOWS DIFFERENTLY.
I'M THE BOS
THEN SHE WILL BE ABLE TO STUDY FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

SLAM
NIGHTY NIIIIGHT!
WHA?
MISS HOUSE MOTHER... WAIT!
HRUFF!
I AM THE BOSS
DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE HER BACK TO YOU BY NEXT WEEK.
YOU'LL BE THRILLED TO SEE HER PROGRESS.
HUH?!

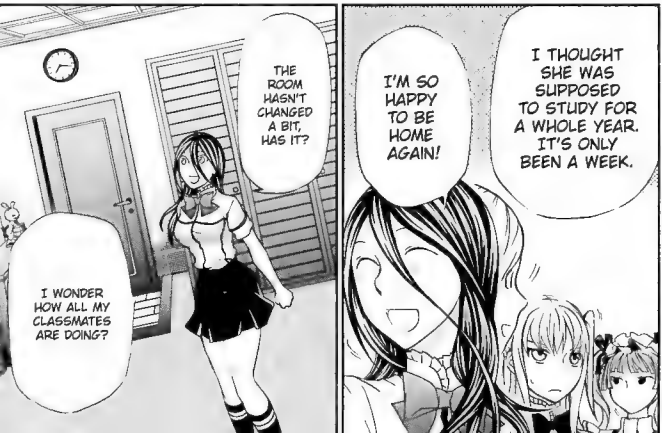
IT SEEMS THAT THIS DORMITORY HOUSES SECRETS THAT ARE BETTER LEFT UNKNOWN.
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...


IN THAT CASE, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN. (BY SHIDOU MARIYA, ON BEHALF OF MIYAMAE KANAKO)
PERHAPS WE WILL BE REUNITED BEFORE THIS LETTER REACHES YOU.
YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE A TRIP BACK TO THE MANSION.
THINK OF IT AS A WEEK-LONG VACATION... FOR US.

MARIA HOLIC

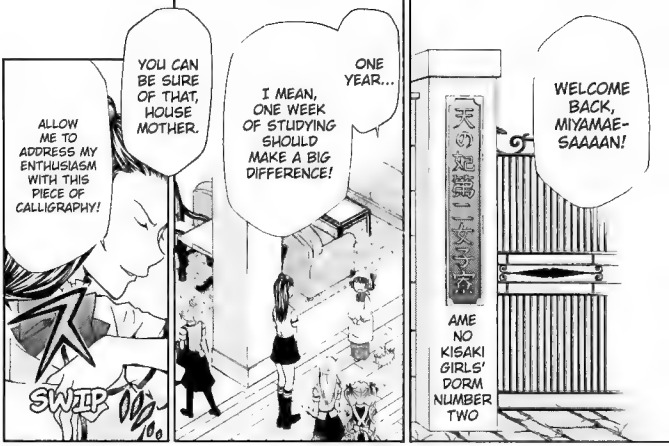
YO!
I'M BACK
FROM
TRAINING!

.....


I WONDER
HOW ALL MY
CLASSMATES
ARE DOING?
THE
ROOM
HASN'T
CHANGED
A BIT,
HAS IT?
I'M SO
HAPPY
TO BE
HOME
AGAIN!
I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
SUPPOSED
TO STUDY FOR
A WHOLE YEAR.
IT'S ONLY
BEEN A WEEK.

QUOTING DRAGONBALL

Prayer28
Welcome Back, Kanako
Part ①


WELCOME BACK, MIYAMAE-SAAAAN!
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORM NUMBER TWO
ONE YEAR...
I MEAN, ONE WEEK OF STUDYING SHOULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!
YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT, HOUSE MOTHER.
ALLOW ME TO ADDRESS MY ENTHUSIASM WITH THIS PIECE OF CALLIGRAPHY!
SWIP

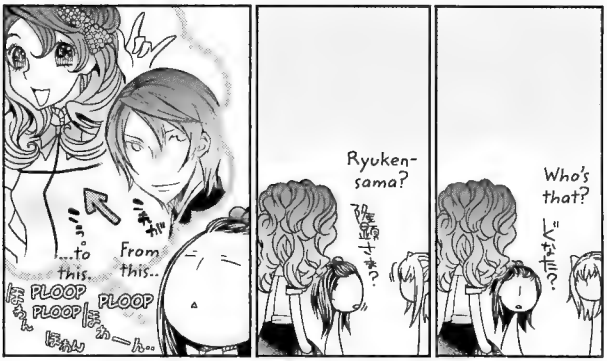
EXILE
2年A組宮前かな
CLASS 2-A, MIYAMAE KANAKO
BOOM

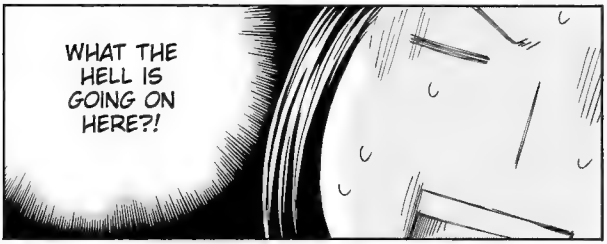
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
UH...
EXILE
WH-WHA...?
YES, THE POWERFUL MIX OF J-POP AND DANCE SIMPLY OVERFLOW FROM EVERY CHARACTER.
THE PIECE REPRESENTS A PERFECT BLEND OF CLASSIC AND MODERN.

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, MIYAMAE-SAAAAN!
THE FUTURE REALLY IS LOOKING BRIIIIGHT!
SOME PEOPLE THINK 14 DANCERS IN ONE POP GROUP IS TOO MUCH, BUT I SAY THEY CAN DOUBLE THAT NUMBER NO PROBLEM!
OF COURSE!

MUMBLE
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD, MARIYA-SAMA. IT'LL MELT YOUR BRAIN.
H-HEY...
MATSURIKA...
WHISPER
WHISPER
I MEAN, IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO SAY SOMETHING NOW, BUT...
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY PRIDE AS A HUMAN BEING? I CAN'T JUST IGNORE THIS AFFRONT TO THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE!
MUTTER
BZZZT
BEEP
BLIP BLIP BEEP
YOU HAVE TRULY GROWN SINCE THE LAST TIME WE SAAAAAW YOU.

LET'S AT LEAST HOPE SO.
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT HER HEIGHT, RIGHT?
TWO WHOLE CENTIME-TERS?
THEY JUST PUBLISHED THE CHARACTER PROFILES, BUT WE ALREADY NEED A REVISED EDITON.
MariaHolic 4.5 is available now...filled with updated character information!
まりあ†ほりっく4.5はキャラデータ満載で発売中です☆
HUH?
WOW, IT'S REALLY GROWN.
My hair, I mean.
KANAKO-KUN!
WELCOME BACK! WE MISSED YOU!


Who's that?
Ryuken-sama?
From this...
...to this.
PLOOP PLOOP PLOOP


WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

YOUR HAIR SURE GREW A LOT IN A WEEK, KANAKO-KUN.
OR DID YOU GET EXTEN-SIONS?
THEY'RE PRETTY POPULAR THESE DAYS.

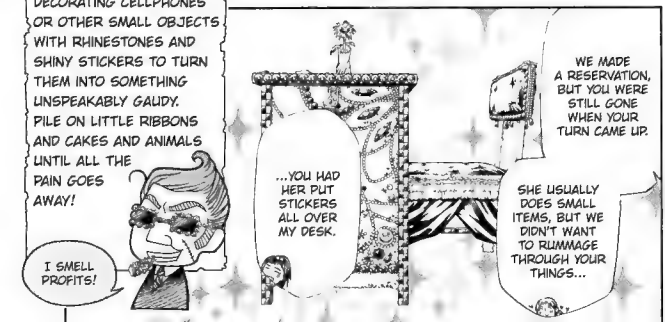
EVEN THOUGH IT HAD ONLY BEEN A WEEK, THE WORLD HAD CHANGED IN WAYS THAT I COULD SCARCELY COMPREHEND.
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
...
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORM, NUMBER TWO
天の妃第二女子寮
WHEN YOU PASS THEM, LET'S HAVE A PARTY!!
ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK ON YOUR RE-TESTS TODAY!

How long is yours?
Seven centimeters!
GLITTER
キラキラ
GLEAM
ニコ。。
GOOD MORNING!
NICE TO SEE EVERYONE!
RATTLE
ニコ。。

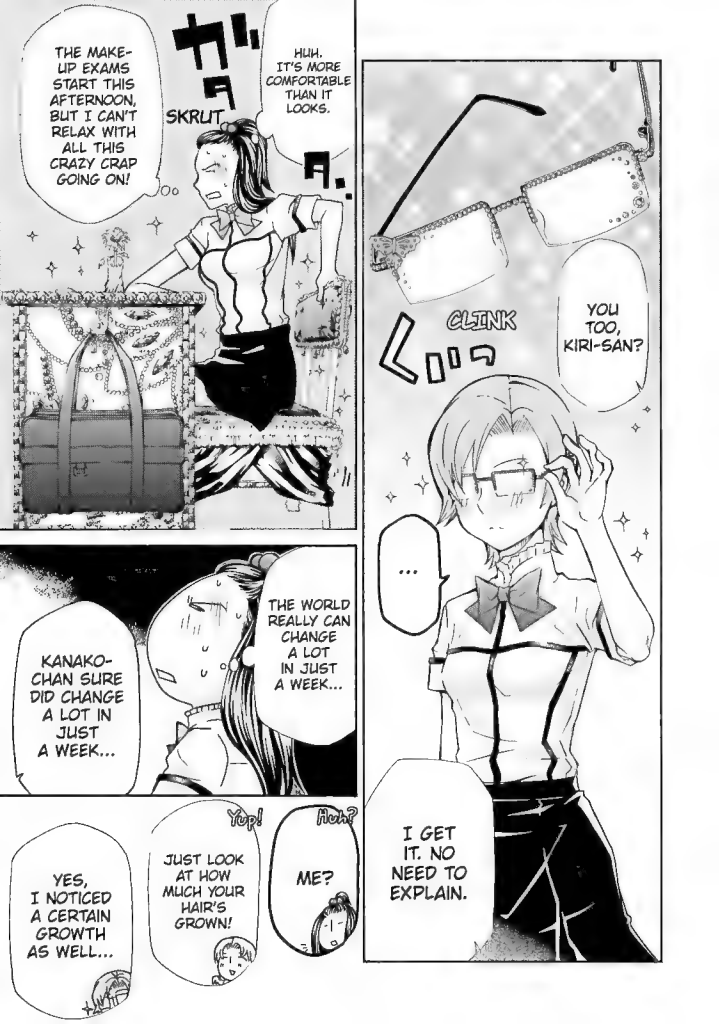
A desk...?
Hn.....?
EVERYONE LOVES HER WORK, SO SHE'S REALLY HARD TO BOOK!
WE HAD SHIKI AYARI DECORATE IT PERSONALLY. HER DECO SKILLS ARE NEXT TO NONE, YOU KNOW!
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR FABULOUS NEW DESK?
NANDAROU'S CORNER

WHAT IS DECO?

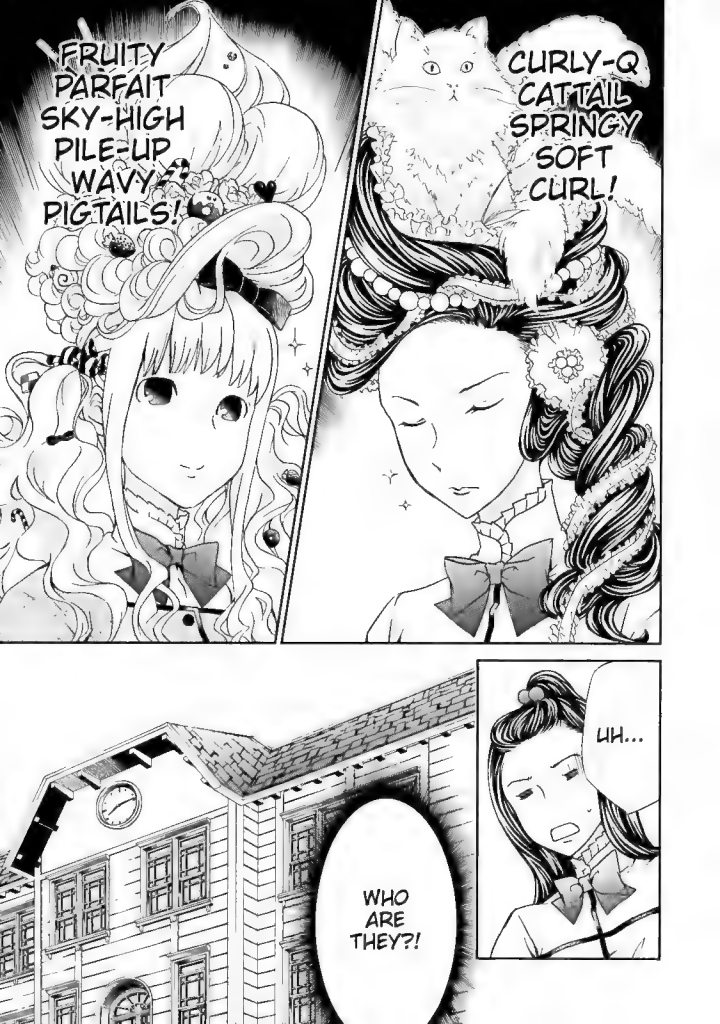
DECO IS A STYLE OF DECORATING CELLPHONES OR OTHER SMALL OBJECTS WITH RHINESTONES AND SHINY STICKERS TO TURN THEM INTO SOMETHING UNSPEAKABLY GAUDY. PILE ON LITTLE RIBBONS AND CAKES AND ANIMALS UNTIL ALL THE PAIN GOES AWAY!


I SMELL PROFITS!
...YOU HAD HER PUT STICKERS ALL OVER MY DESK.
WE MADE A RESERVATION, BUT YOU WERE STILL GONE WHEN YOUR TURN CAME UP.
SHE USUALLY DOES SMALL ITEMS, BUT WE DIDN'T WANT TO RUMMAGE THROUGH YOUR THINGS...

I HAD ONE OF MY ARROWS DONE!
ARROW?! ARE YOU SURE THAT ISN'T A MAGIC WAND?
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE A GOOD LUCK CHARM? I THINK I'LL USE IT AS A NEW YEAR'S DECORATION.
Lookie, lookie!
見て 見て
NOW I HAVE A SUPER DECO CELLPHONE!
I GUESS THIS IS WHERE I SCREAM "KAWAII"?


THE MAKE-UP EXAMS START THIS AFTERNOON, BUT I CAN'T RELAX WITH ALL THIS CRAZY CRAP GOING ON!
SKRUT
HUH. IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE THAN IT LOOKS.
CLINK
YOU TOO, KIRI-SAN?
...
I GET IT. NO NEED TO EXPLAIN.
THE WORLD REALLY CAN CHANGE A LOT IN JUST A WEEK...
KANAKO-CHAN SURE DID CHANGE A LOT IN JUST A WEEK...
Huh?
ME?
Yup!
JUST LOOK AT HOW MUCH YOUR HAIR'S GROWN!
YES, I NOTICED A CERTAIN GROWTH AS WELL...

TWO CENTIMETERS ...
...TO BE PRECISE.
HUH?
ARE WE TALKING ABOUT MY HAIR? 'CAUSE IT GREW MORE THAN THAT.
TWO CENTIME-TERS INDEED.
SINCE MY HAIR GREW SO MUCH, I WANTED TO STYLE IT DIFFERENTLY OR SOMETHING.
BUT I'M SUCH A KLUTZ THAT I'M AFRAID I'LL MESS IT UP.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
THAT VOICE... IS THAT HONOKA-SAN?
TA DAH!

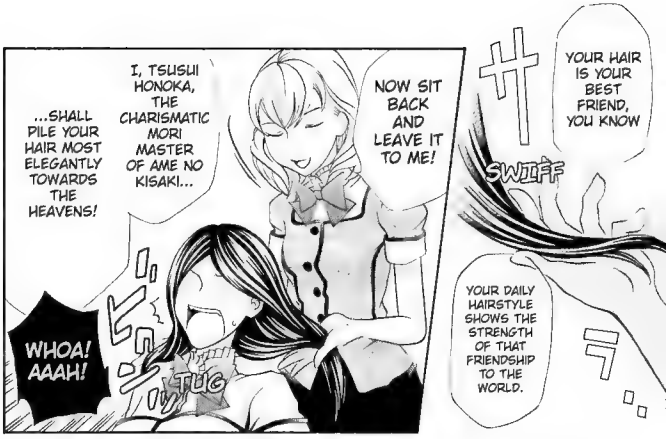

FRUITY PARFAIT SKY-HIGH PILE-UP WAVY-PIGTAILS!
CURLY-Q CATTAIL SPRINGY SOFT CURL!
UH...
WHO ARE THEY?!

Prayer29
Welcome Back, Kanako
Part②

RYUKEN-SAMA'S GROUPIE A, HITOTSUBASHI EI!!
WE HAVE NAMES NOW!
BOOM
RYUKEN-SAMA'S GROUPIE B, HABUTAE MI!!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU... OFFICIALLY!
TA DAH!
Urgh...

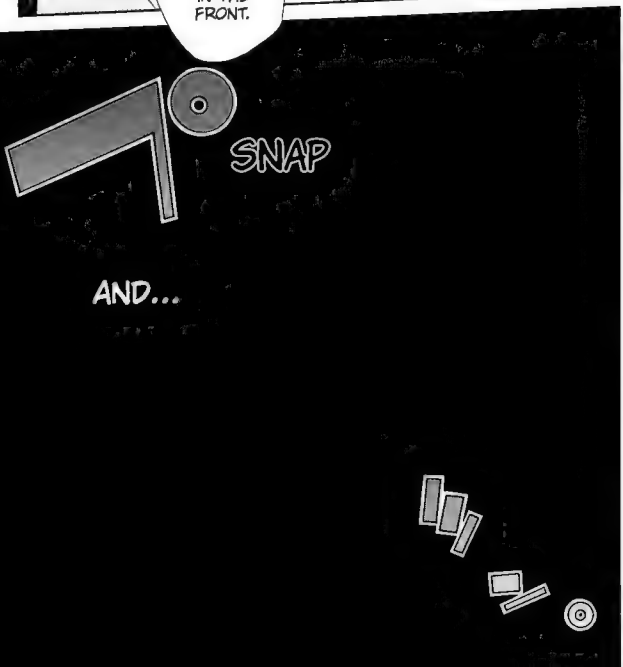
UM...
JUST TO MAKE SURE... YOU'RE THESE TWO, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
NOT LIKE... MARIE ANTOINETTE OR SOMETHING?
MAAAAYBE!
KANAKO-SAN, DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT "MORI" HAIR?
MORI?
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A STYLE WHERE YOU PILE YOUR HAIR UP AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE.
CUTE, HUH?!
WHEN DID YOU DO THAT?!
Whaaat?!
NANDAROU'S CORNER

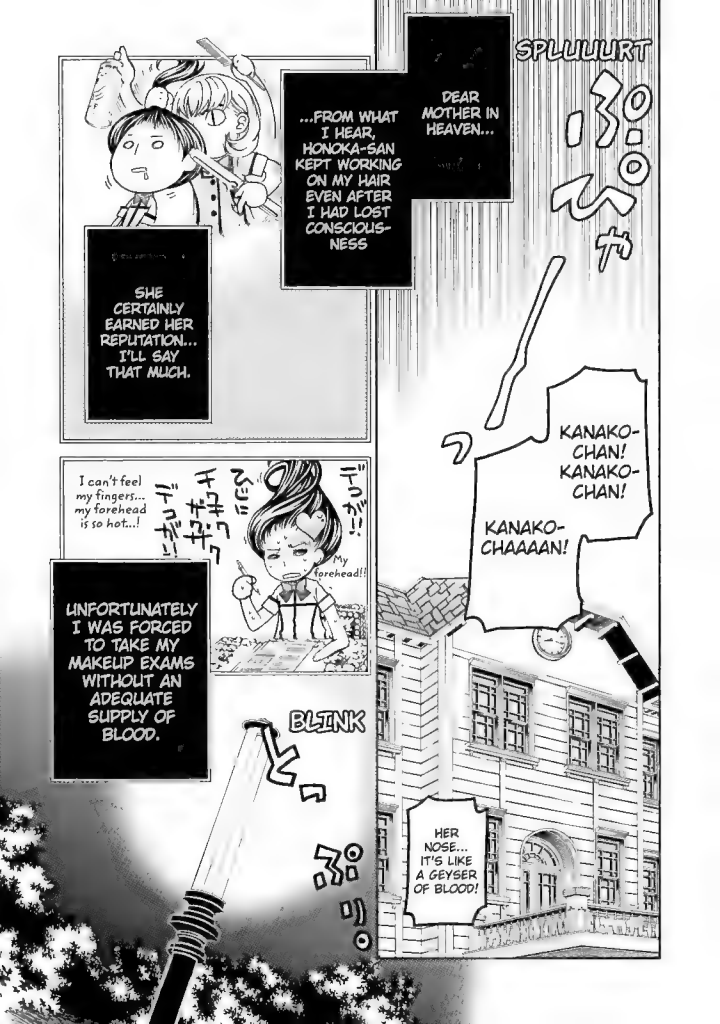
WHAT IS MORI HAIR?
MORI, OR "PILED UP" HAIR WAS ONCE ONLY POPULAR WITH BAR HOSTESSES. HOWEVER, ALL THE YOUNG GALS ARE WEARING IT NOWADAYS!
I SMELL PROFITS!
BY THE WAY, MIYAMAE-SAN...
...DID I HEAR YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR HAIRSTYLE?
SHUNK
I DON'T THINK I HAVE ENOUGH COURAGE TO SAY "YES" IN THIS SITUATION.
OH... UH...
DON'T BE SO SHY.


...SHALL PILE YOUR HAIR MOST ELEGANTLY TOWARDS THE HEAVENS!
I, TSUSUI HONOKA, THE CHARISMATIC MORI MASTER OF AME NO KISAKI...
NOW SIT BACK AND LEAVE IT TO ME!
WHOA! AAAH!
TUG
YOUR HAIR IS YOUR BEST FRIEND, YOU KNOW
SWIFF
YOUR DAILY HAIRSTYLE SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF THAT FRIENDSHIP TO THE WORLD.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THIS IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
Tee hee. YOU'RE SO FUNNY.
AH, BUT EVEN IF IT IS A DREAM...
...I PRAY THAT GOD LETS IT LAST BUT A MOMENT LONGER!
A DREAM...
NOTHING BUT A FLEETING DREAM...
BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUM
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MIYAMAE-SAN?
NO, NO, NO! NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL!

GENTLY STROKING MY NECK...
FULL OF MISCHIEF AND...
MUTTER
MAYBE WE CAN USE THAT TO STAND IT STRAIGHT UP...
...THOUGH IT MIGHT LOOK MORE FEMININE IF WE KEPT IT DOWN IN THE FRONT.
MUTTER
MUTTER
WHAT AN EXQUISITE FEELING...
SINFUL LITTLE FINGERS, SNAKING THROUGH MY HAIR...
YOUR HAIR IS A BIT ON THE STIFF SIDE...
MUTTER MUTTER

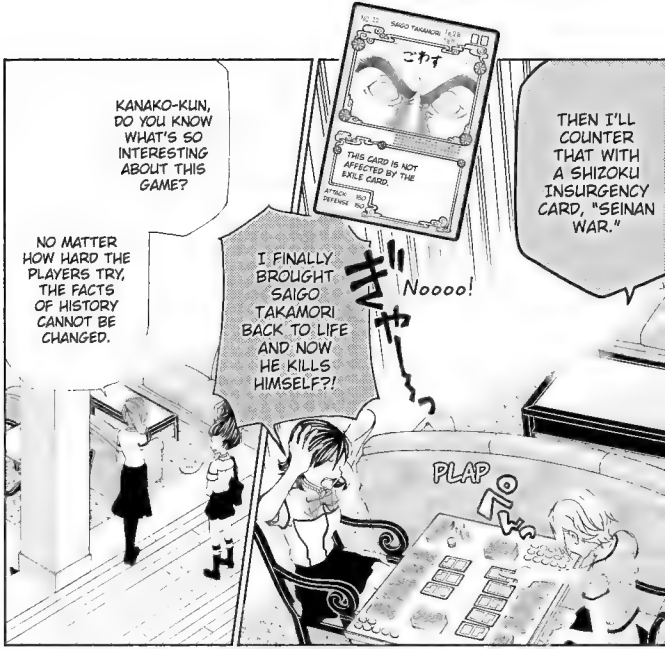

SNAP
AND...


SPLUUURT
KANAKO-CHAN! KANAKO-CHAN!
KANAKO-CHAAAAN!
HER NOSE... IT'S LIKE A GEYSER OF BLOOD!
DEAR MOTHER IN HEAVEN...
...FROM WHAT I HEAR, HONOKA-SAN KEPT WORKING ON MY HAIR EVEN AFTER I HAD LOST CONSCIOUSNESS
SHE CERTAINLY EARNED HER REPUTATION... I'LL SAY THAT MUCH.
I can't feel my fingers... my forehead is so hot...!
My forehead!
UNFORTUNATELY I WAS FORCED TO TAKE MY MAKEUP EXAMS WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF BLOOD.
BLINK

URGH...
AND YET SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO FINISH THEM AND SURVIVE.
I... I'M HOME...
PEEK
DAMN IT. I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D MAKE ME TAKE EVERY SUBJECT AT ONCE...!
CREEEAK
WELCOME BACK, KANAKO-KUN.
OH, HEY, RYUKEN-SAMA. ARE YOU OFF TO WORK NOW?
Before
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?
AT ANY RATE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR EXAMS IN ONE PIECE.
IF YOU'RE FREE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A LITTLE MATCH?
OH, THAT CARD GAME AGAIN?
I'M GLAD *SOMETHING* DIDN'T CHANGE IN THE LAST WEEK, AT LEAST!
TAKE THIS!!

NAKAOKA SHINTARO
ATTACK 100
DEFENSE 200
NO. 87
OMIYA
WHEN PLAYED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NAKAOKA SHINTARO, SAKAMOTO RYOMA IS IMMEDIATELY KILLED. NAKAOKA DIES AFTER TWO SUBSEQUENT TURNS.
ATTACK 0
DEFENSE 150
I'M GOING TO SACRIFICE NAKAOKA SHINTARO AND DEPLOY OMIYA!
MY TARGET IS YOUR SAKAMOTO RYOMA CARD!
What?!
GONG
DAMN IT! I WAS SHOOTING FOR THE "SATSUMA-CHOSHU ALLIANCE"!!
NO. 115
TSUN
WOOH WUOH WOOH! BY OFFERING THIS CARD ON THE GRAVE OF SAIGO TAKAMORI, HE IS ABLE TO RETURN FROM THE DEAD.
ATTACK 200
DEFENSE 50
I JUST SACRIFICED TSUN TO RESURRECT SAIGO FROM THE GRAVE, TOO!
NO. 58
SAKAMOTO RYOMA SATSUMA-CHOSHU ALLIANCE
1836
1867
ATTACK 100
DEFENSE 200

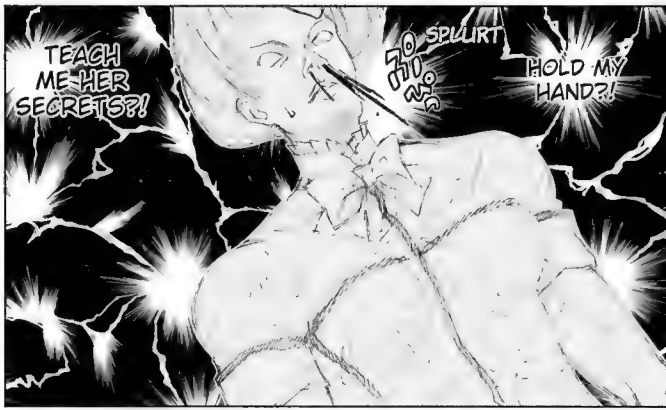
"THE DAWN OF JAPAN: CARD BATTLE."
IT'S A LEARN-AS-YOU-PLAY HISTORY GAME...
...
THERE'S AN EVENT CARD FOR THE SWORD ABOLISHMENT EDICT OF 1876.
ONCE ACTIVATED, THE ATTACK POWER OF ALL MEN (EXCEPT MEMBERS OF THE COURT, MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND POLICE OFFICERS) IS REDUCED BY HALF FOR AN ENTIRE TURN.
SMIRK
TAKE THAT, KOMACHI!
I COUNTER WITH MY "SAMURAI CLASS" CARD!
WHAT?!
THE CARD IS ACTIVATED WHEN THE OPPONENT PUTS "SWORD ABOLISHMENT" OR "EQUALITY FOR THE FOUR CLASSES" INTO PLAY!


KANAKO-KUN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S SO INTERESTING ABOUT THIS GAME?
NO MATTER HOW HARD THE PLAYERS TRY, THE FACTS OF HISTORY CANNOT BE CHANGED.
I FINALLY BROUGHT SAIGO TAKAMORI BACK TO LIFE AND NOW HE KILLS HIMSELF?!
Noooo!
THEN I'LL COUNTER THAT WITH A SHIZOKU INSURGENCY CARD, "SEINAN WAR."
SAIGO TAKAMORI
THIS CARD IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE EXILE CARD.
ATTACK 150
DEFENSE 150
PLAP

UH HUH.
PERHAPS THE EPHEMERAL NATURE OF THESE FIGURES IS WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE TO THE GAME.
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THE CARD, IT CAN ALWAYS BE EJECTED FROM PLAY BY THE RIGHT HISTORICAL EVENT.

NO.127 MATTHEW GALBRAITH 1794 PERRY
Please open the country immediately!!
ATTACK 300
DEFENSE 300
NO.125 BLACK SHIP
ATTACK 300
DEFENSE 300
DON'T YOU THINK PERRY AND HIS BLACK SHIPS ARE A BIT TOO STRONG, SATSUKI-CHAN-SENPAI?
I guess because it's historically accurate?
NAKAOKA SHINTARO IS OVERPOWERED INDEED.
UNLESS THEY FIX THE ACTIVATION CONDITIONS IN THE NEXT VERSION, EVERYONE'S GOING TO BUILD THE EXACT SAME DECK!
AND WHAT I HAVE HERE IS THE "WILD AND CRAZY HEIAN" VERSION RELEASED ONLY YESTERDAY.
I WONDER HOW YOU COULD STAND UP TO MY "RITSURYO GOVERNMENT" DECK?
WHAAAT?!
HOW IS THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE WARRING STATES VERSION?
NO, NEVER MIND. PRETEND LIKE I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I DON'T THINK I WANT TO HEAR THE ANSWER.
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW?
NOT AT ALL.

BEAM
HOLD YOUR HAND, TAKE THINGS STEP BY STEP.. TEACH YOU MY SECRETS.
WELL, IF YOU LIKE, I COULD SHOW YOU THE ROPES...
OH, I SEE.
YOU'RE STILL INEXPERIENCED WITH THIS SORT OF THING.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW ANY OF THIS WORKS, SO I DOUBT I'LL BE MUCH FUN TO PLAY WITH.
ANYWAY, I'LL BE FRANK WITH YOU...


TEACH ME HER SECRETS?!
SPLURT
HOLD MY HAND?!

FWAAAH
LUCKY FOR YOU, "THE DAWN OF JAPAN: CARD BATTLE" IS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL STORE!
AH, BUT WAIT! I DON'T HAVE ANY CARDS!
W-WELL, IN THAT CASE, HOW COULD I SAY NO? PLEASE, TEACH ME, MASTER!

MARIYA?!
WE'LL BE HOLDING OUR FIRST OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT AT 9 A.M. TOMORROW IN THE DORM DINING HALL.
PLEASE NOT THAT PARTICIPATION IS MANDATORY FOR ALL DORM RESIDENTS.
YES, SIRREE!

UM...
IN A SPECIAL ALUMINUM CASE!
THAT INCLUDES ALL 165 EPISODES, ALONG WITH THREE FULL-LENGTH FEATURES, SPREAD ACROSS 45 DVDS.
AND REMEMBER, THE LOWEST-RANKING STUDENT...
...WILL BE FORCED TO WATCH THE ENTIRE "TALES OF JAPANESE HEROES" DVD COLLECTION.

THAT'S 4370 MINUTES TOTAL... NO BLINKING ALLOWED!
WE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO MISS A SINGLE SECOND OF THE ACTION, AFTER AAAAALL!!

AAAAAH!!
PLEASE, HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
OPEN THE DOOR!
I NEED TO BUY SOMETHING FROM THE SCHOOL STORE!!

AND SO...AS THE RESULT OF 4370 MINUTES WITHOUT BLINKING...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
NOOOO!! SELL ME THE CAAAAAARDS!
...I FOUND THAT I WAS A LITTLE BETTER AT JAPANESE HISTORY. (MAYBE.)

MARIA HOLIC

MARIA HOLIC

BLIP
BLIP
BEEP
BLIP
DEAR MOTHER AND FATHER, I HOPE THIS FINDS YOU WELL.
TAK TAK TAK
THIS RAINY SEASON HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY HARSH, AND WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF A TERRIBLE HEAT SPELL. I PRAY THE WEATHER IS A BIT MORE FAVORABLE BACK HOME.
ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU A LITTLE FAIRY TALE.
BLIP
BEEP
BLIP
BLIP
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A GIANT GIRL WHO WAS DREADFULLY CLUMSY.
SHE WAS ALSO TERRIBLY LAZY, AND RATHER THAN WORKING HARD TO OVERCOME HER CLUMSINESS, SHE SQUANDERED WHAT MEAGRE TALENTS SHE HAD, AND FAILED AT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

ONE DAY, GOD HEARD ABOUT HER MONUMENTAL FAILURES.
AS A RESULT, SHE LOCKED THE GIRL IN A STRANGE ROOM WHERE TIME FLOWED VERY SLOWLY. ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE WEEK PASSED FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD...
...IT WAS AN ENTIRE YEAR FOR THE CLUMSY GIANT.
THIS WAS HER PUNISHMENT: SHE WOULD HAVE TO SPEND THE WHOLE TIME STUDYING VIGOROUSLY FOR HER MAKE-UP EXAMS.

THIS IS THE TALE OF THE WEEK WHEN THE (TENTATIVE) MAIN CHARACTER OF "MARIAHOLIC" WAS ABSENT... THE WEEK WITHOUT MIYAMAE KANAKO.
PA-CHING!
STOP SCREWING AROUND, MATSURIKA!
WE'RE GOING HOME!
AAA AND
SEND

Prayer30
The Tale of the Week Without Kanako Part ①

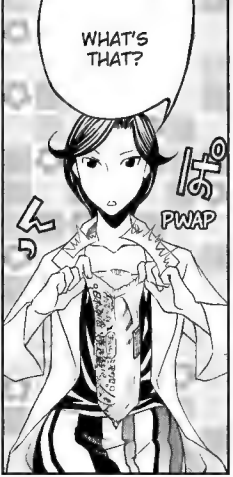
SUNDAY, DAY TWO: AFTERNOON
KNOCK
SHIDOU-KUN?
ARE YOU THERE, SHIDOU-KUN?
KNOCK
Oh My!
WHATEVER COULD BE THE MATTER, ISHIMA-SAN?
OH, HELLO, HOUSE MOTHER.
HYAA
HYAN

I WAS JUST STOPPING BY TO PARTAKE IN SOME OF SHIDOU-KUN'S DELICIOUS SNACKS... THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT HERE.
ISHIMA-SAN HAS QUITE THE SWEET TOOTH, I SEEEEE.
UNFORTUNATELY, SHIDOU-SAN IS STAYING AT HOME THIS WEEK.

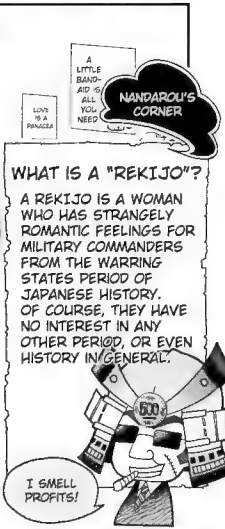
HOME?
DID SOMETHING COME UP?
I DON'T KNOOOOW. SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
MIYAMAE-SAN IS GONE TOO. IT'S VERY QUIET AROUND HERE!

I SEE.
A WHOLE WEEK WITHOUT SHIDOU-KUN'S DELICIOUS TEA AND SNACKS, HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT WEEK, I THINK.
I KNOW! IT'S SO DREARY AROUND HERE!
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD!
NURSE'S OFFICE
TA-DAAAH!
LOOK AT THE NEW GAME I MADE!
MONDAY, DAY THREE: MORNING

CONSIDER IT A SUPPLEMENTARY TEACHING MATERIAL.
IT'S A LEARN-AS-YOU-PLAY HISTORY GAME... "THE DAWN OF JAPAN: CARD BATTLE."
I HAD THE ART DEPARTMENT DO THE ILLUSTRATIONS FOR ME.


WHAT'S THAT?
PWAP

What a silly title.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO APPEAL TO REKIJO, YOU SHOULD SET IT IN THE WARRING STATES PERIOD.
HUH?
ARGH! THOSE REKIJO GIRLS DRIVE ME CRAZY!


A LITTLE BAND-AID IS ALL YOU NEED
LOVE IS A PANACEA
NANDAROU'S CORNER
WHAT IS A "REKIJO"?
A REKIJO IS A WOMAN WHO HAS STRANGELY ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR MILITARY COMMANDERS FROM THE WARRING STATES PERIOD OF JAPANESE HISTORY. OF COURSE, THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN ANY OTHER PERIOD, OR EVEN HISTORY IN GENERAL.
I SMELL PROFITS!

SO THIS IS YOUR ANSWER TO THAT "PATHETIC" FAD?
WELL, I THINK THE SHINSENGUMI ARE ALSO FAIRLY POPULAR.
YOU SEE PLENTY OF NOVELS AND TV SHOWS ABOUT SAKAMOTO RYOUMA AND SAIGOU TAKAMORI. I THINK IT'S EASY FOR BEGINNERS TO GET INTO.
IT'S LIKE ALL THEY CARE ABOUT ARE HOT GUYS WITH EYE-PATCHES, YAOI STORIES, AND "PUTTING THEIR GUNS ON"! IT'S PATHETIC!
WHAT KIND OF STUPID FAD IS THIS, ANYWAY? WHY DO THEY ONLY FOCUS ON ONE PERIOD OF HISTORY?!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
YEAH...?

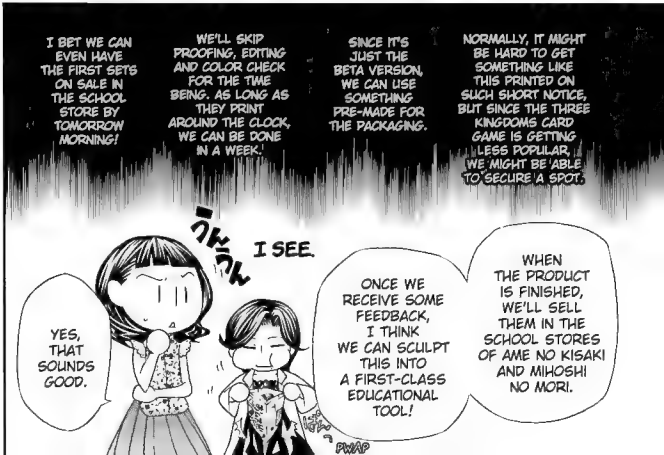
REFERENCING SENGOKU BASARA

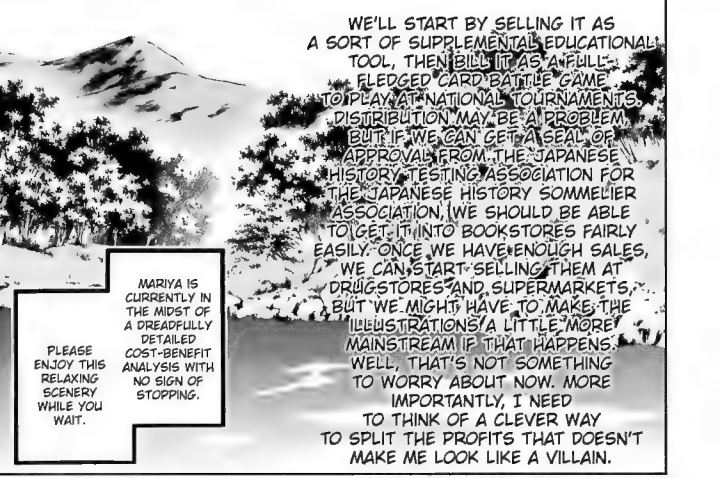
RATTLE
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL!
..."ARE YOU A LOYALIST? OR AN EXCLUSIONIST?" AAAH, THAT WOULD BE SO LOVELY!
DREAMY
THEN IF IT REALLY CATCHES ON, PEOPLE WILL START SAYING CATCHPHRASES LIKE...

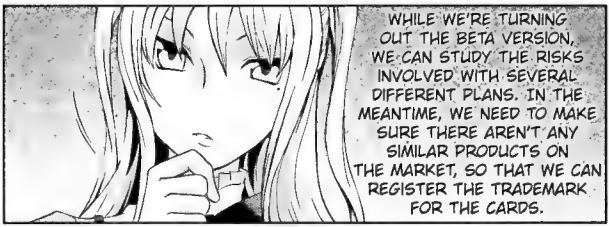
SHIDOU-SAN!
YOUR EFFORTS TO MAKE LEARNING FUN HAVE TRULY TOUCHED MY HEART!
USING CREATIVITY AND INVENTIVENESS TO BREATHE LIFE INTO THE OTHERWISE PASSIVE ACT OF LEARNING...
I SEE HOW PASSIONATE YOU ARE ABOUT TEACHING, KUMAGAYA-SENSEI!
OH... OH NO!
YOU'RE OVERREACTING, SHIDOU-SAN.
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S JUST A JAPANESE HISTORY FREAK.
HOWEVER, I DON'T FEEL THAT THIS ADEQUATELY COMMUNICATES YOUR PASSION.
HUH?

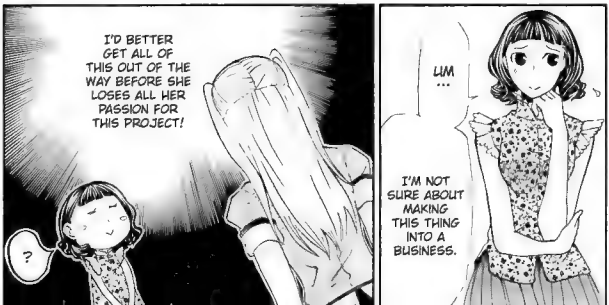
THE THICKNESS OF THE CARDS IS ALSO PROBLEMATIC FOR PLAY AND STORAGE.
FIRST OF ALL, IT COMES ACROSS AS TOO HOMEMADE TO PASS AS A REAL GAME.
HAVING COLOR COPIES LAMINATED TO CARDSTOCK LOOKS TOO CHEAP. IT WON'T GRAB PEOPLE'S ATTENTION.
THAT'S FINE! I CAN HELP YOU!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET TO MAKE SOMETHING PROFESSIONAL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DRAWINGS ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL, EVEN IF YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN THE GAME.
IF YOU SELL IT AS A COLLECTOR'S ITEM, I THINK IT WILL APPEAL TO MORE PEOPLE.
I'M SURE I CAN CUT A DEAL WITH THE COMPANY THAT HANDLES ALL OF AME NO KISAKI'S PRINTING:
LET'S START WITH 300 STARTER PACKS AND ABOUT 1000 BOOSTER PACKS OF FIVE CARDS EACH.
THAT MANY?!

SINCE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A REKIJO FAD, WHO KNOWS WHEN SOMEONE ELSE WILL BANK ON THE SAME IDEA!
OH...?
IS THAT TO SAY YOU HAVE A PLAN?
WHEN IT COMES TO CARD GAMES, THE ONE WHO WAITS ALWAYS LOSES.
WE NEED TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT!
OH, AND IF I DO?
I THINK THE FIRST PRINTING WILL SELL OUT, NO PROBLEM.
EVEN IF YOU DO PRINT THEM, WHO WOULD BUY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
FORGET IT, SHIDOU-SAN.
OH, I DON'T KNOW, NURSE TONOMURA.


I BET WE CAN EVEN HAVE THE FIRST SETS ON SALE IN THE SCHOOL STORE BY TOMORROW MORNING!
WE'LL SKIP PROOFING, EDITING AND COLOR CHECK FOR THE TIME BEING. AS LONG AS THEY PRINT AROUND THE CLOCK, WE CAN BE DONE IN A WEEK.
SINCE IT'S JUST THE BETA VERSION, WE CAN USE SOMETHING PRE-MADE FOR THE PACKAGING.
NORMALLY, IT MIGHT BE HARD TO GET SOMETHING LIKE THIS PRINTED ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, BUT SINCE THE THREE KINGDOMS CARD GAME IS GETTING LESS POPULAR, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SECURE A SPOT.
I SEE.
YES, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
ONCE WE RECEIVE SOME FEEDBACK, I THINK WE CAN SCULPT THIS INTO A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATIONAL TOOL!
WHEN THE PRODUCT IS FINISHED, WE'LL SELL THEM IN THE SCHOOL STORES OF AME NO KISAKI AND MIHOSHI NO MORI.
PWAP


WE'LL START BY SELLING IT AS A SORT OF SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL TOOL, THEN BILL IT AS A FULL-FLEDGED CARD BATTLE GAME TO PLAY AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS. DISTRIBUTION MAY BE A PROBLEM, BUT IF WE CAN GET A SEAL OF APPROVAL FROM THE JAPANESE HISTORY TESTING ASSOCIATION FOR THE JAPANESE HISTORY SOMMELIER ASSOCIATION, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IT INTO BOOKSTORES FAIRLY EASILY. ONCE WE HAVE ENOUGH SALES, WE CAN START SELLING THEM AT DRUGSTORES AND SUPERMARKETS, BUT WE MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE THE ILLUSTRATIONS A LITTLE MORE MAINSTREAM IF THAT HAPPENS. WELL, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I NEED TO THINK OF A CLEVER WAY TO SPLIT THE PROFITS THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A VILLAIN.
MARIYA IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF A DREADFULLY DETAILED COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS WITH NO SIGN OF STOPPING.
PLEASE ENJOY THIS RELAXING SCENERY WHILE YOU WAIT.


WHILE WE'RE TURNING OUT THE BETA VERSION, WE CAN STUDY THE RISKS INVOLVED WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT PLANS. IN THE MEANTIME, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY SIMILAR PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET, SO THAT WE CAN REGISTER THE TRADEMARK FOR THE CARDS.


I'D BETTER GET ALL OF THIS OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE SHE LOSES ALL HER PASSION FOR THIS PROJECT!
?
UM ...
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT MAKING THIS THING INTO A BUSINESS.

THE BATTLE OF THE GENJI AND HEIKE IS FAIRLY POPULAR AS WELL. WHY NOT MAKE A HEIAN PERIOD VERSION NEXT?
WILD AND CRAZY HEIAN EDITION!!
BA DUM BA DUM
AH.
JUDGING BY YOUR REACTION, IT SEEMS YOU'VE ALREADY CONSIDERED THAT.

CONSIDERED IT? I'VE ALREADY COMMISSIONED THE ILLUSTRATIONS!
LEAVE IT TO ME! MY BOW IS SET AND MY EYES ARE ON THE TARGET!
HEIKAAAA!!
I SEE... SO YOICHI'S ARROW PIERCED FUMIN'S HEART.

RIP RIP
HMPH.
DASH
I'D BETTER GET TO WORK! SEE YOU LATER!
RATLE
BY THE WAY, SHIDOU-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
Oh!!
I HAD SOMETHING TO TELL KUMAGAYA-SENSEI!!

MONDAY, DAY THREE: BEFORE HOMEROOM
WHAT? KANAKO-CHAN'S NOT COMING TO CLASS?
FOR A WHOLE WEEK?
AAAH!
YES.
MARIYA-SAN TOLD ME TO TELL KUMAGAYA-SENSEI.
I SEE.
KANAKO-CHAN'S HEALTH WAS NEVER THAT GREAT, I GUESS.

ACTUALLY, I HEARD IT'S SOME SORT OF FAMILY EMERGENCY.
THAT'S A SHAME, CONSIDERING THAT HER RETESTS ARE COMING UP SOON.
BY THE WAY, DOESN'T IT SEEM KIND OF QUIET TODAY?
...
YEAH, CLASS IS KIND OF SAD WITHOUT KANAKO-CHAN.
IT'S LIKE... A VASE WITHOUT A FLOWER, OR SOMETHING.
いつも騒ぎの中心ですからね……
She's usually starting some commotion.
IF WE ARE MISSING A FLOWER, THEN LET US GET ONE.

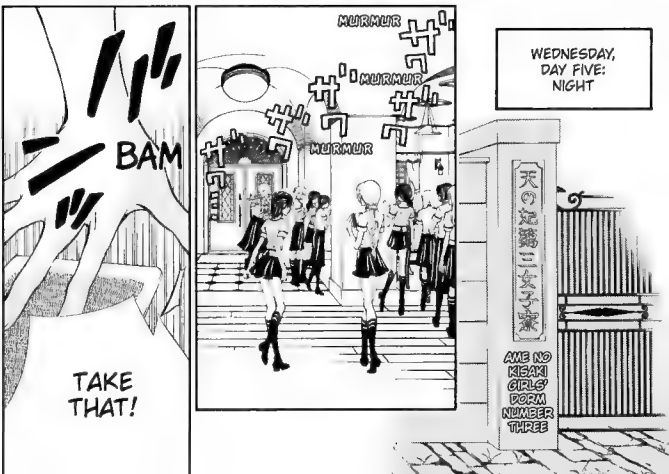
IS SHE BEING PHILOSOPHICAL?
YOU'RE SO CLEVER, NANAMI-CHAN! THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
GUYS, HOLD ON...
I THINK THE PTA MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT THIS...
FRET FRET
PERFECT!
?!
I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE A FLOWER IN MY BAG.♥
THAT'S GOOD, MOMOI-SAN, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A FLOWER ALONE CAN REPRESENT KANAKO-SAN.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT THIS WAS HER DESK.
NOOOO!!
THERE, THAT'S BETTER! ☆
KLAT
YES, PERFECT.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH?
DOESN'T THIS MAKE YOU THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE?
I think やはりは
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY A DIFFERENT APPROACH?
おそらくは
...I'd better stop thinking
?

TUESDAY, DAY FOUR: AFTER SCHOOL
WHAT A CUTE HAIRPIN, RYUKEN-SAMA!

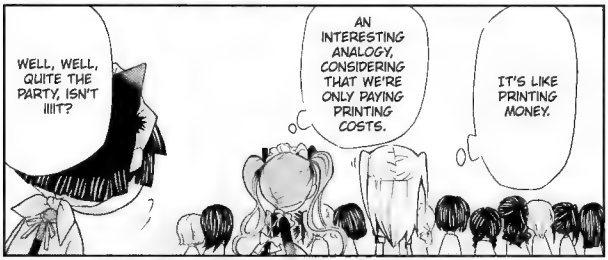
I... I KNOW IT'S A BIT FANCY FOR MESSY HAIR LIKE MINE...
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
AYARI-SAN? YOU MEAN IT'S A PIECE FROM AME NO KISAKI'S DECO QUEEN?!
A NEW WORK?!
OH, THIS?
I KEEP PUTTING OFF GOING TO THE SALON, AND NOW MY HAIR'S GOTTEN TOO LONG.
AYARI-SAN SAID I SHOULDN'T LET MY BANGS GET IN MY EYES, SO SHE LENT ME THESE HAIRPINS TO KEEP THEM TUCKED BACK.
RYUKEN-SAMA, YOU LOOK W-W-WONDERFUL NO MATTER WHAT YOUR HAIRSTYLE IS LIKE.
MA... MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO TRY GROWING IT OUT.
I DON'T KNOW. MY HAIR IS PRETTY THICK. IT MIGHT BE A PAIN.
THOUGH IT MIGHT BE FUN TO TRY A MORI STYLE OR SOMETHING...
!!

DRAMA CLUB
演劇部
I, TSUTSUI HONOKA, SHALL GRANT YOUR WISH!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A FEW SIMPLE WORDS FROM ISHIMA RYUKEN WOULD BRING ABOUT THE BIRTH OF AME NO KISAKI'S CHARISMATIC MORI MASTER!
THE FUTURE IS CERTAINLY FULL OF SURPRISES...
?
HUH?


BAM
TAKE THAT!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
WEDNESDAY, DAY FIVE: NIGHT
天の定路三女子寮
AME NO KISAKI GIRLS' DORM NUMBER THREE

BLACK SHIP
THERE! TWO BLACK SHIPS AND MATTHEW PERRY COMPLETES THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE!
I'M USING THIS HAND TO OPEN THE COUNTRY BY FORCE, YONAKUNI-SAN!
BAM
TOWNSEND HARRIS
LET'S BE PALS
YIPE?!
TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE ACTIVATED! I'M BRINGING OUT HARRIS!
HYAOOH!
THAT'S KOMACHI FOR YOU...
NO MERCY, EVEN FOR A DOG.
HYAN! HEEOOON! HYAOON!
I CAN RESPECT THAT.

GIVING MISS HOUSE MOTHER A SET OF SAMPLE DECKS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA.
OF COURSE.
I HAD A FEELING SHE'D MAKE THE DORM RESIDENTS BUY THE CARDS SO SHE'D HAVE SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH.
BUT I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D INVOLVE DORM NUMBER THREE AS WEL!


IT'S LIKE PRINTING MONEY.
AN INTERESTING ANALOGY, CONSIDERING THAT WE'RE ONLY PAYING PRINTING COSTS.
WELL, WELL, QUITE THE PARTY, ISN'T IIIIT?

AH, HOUSE MOTHER.
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE FIRST OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT NEXT SUNDAY.
CAN YOU HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL DECKS READY BY THEEEEN?

OF COURSE! THE SECOND PRINTING SHOULD BE IN THE SCHOOL STORE BY TOMORROW.
"OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT"? DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.
DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE UP THE RIGHTS TO "OFFICIAL" ANYTHING?
LEAVE IT TO ME. I SHALL MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER FOR THE OFFICIAL MEET UNDER MY AUTHORITY.
TCH.
TCH?
?!
ROYALTIES, YOU SAY?
OF COURSE!
OH, IT'S NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL!
THEN LET'S DISCUSS THE TOURNAMENT PRIZES... AND PENALTIES.
AS WELL AS CERTAIN... ROYALTIES... FOR GOD, IF I MAY BE SO BOLD.
LET'S SEE...
WHAT SHALL I AAAAASK FOR?

THURSDAY, DAY SIX:
7:45 P.M.
YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD!
I'M SORRY TO WORRY YOU...
AAH...!
WOBBLE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AYARIN?
OH!
YES. THANK YOU, NATSURU.
BUT LOOK!
IT'S FINALLY COMPLETE!

完成
DECO
DECO DESK!
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU! THANKS FOR WATCHING OVER ME THIS WHOLE TIME.
OFFICIAL DECO CLUB MEMBER!
O-OF COURSE...

NO, REALLY.
WHAT I MEAN IS, "THANK YOU FOR WATCHING INSTEAD OF HELPING." NORMALLY IT WOULD TAKE THREE TIMES AS LONG!
I'M SORRY. I JUST WANT TO HELP OUT, BUT...
Had to go to the nurse's office five minutes after art class started.
Had to go to the nurse's office two minutes after sewing class started.
Had to go to the nurse's office before cooking class started.
TOO NICE TO TURN HER FRIEND DOWN.

LET US EXPLAIN!
THANKS TO NATSURU MAKI'S FREQUENT APPEARANCES IN THE SCHOOL INFIRMARY, COMBINED WITH HER DELICATE FEATURES...
...AND FRAGILE AURA...
...SHE IS OFTEN CALLED THE "PRINCESS OF THE NURSE'S OFFICE"!
THE OTHER GIRLS WOULD BE SO DISAPPOINTED IF THEY FOUND OUT.
THE TRUTH IS, I'M ACTUALLY JUST EXTREMELY CLUMSY. USUALLY A FEW BAND-AIDS FIX ME RIGHT UP.
I'M NOT EVEN ON THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, BUT THEY HAVE ME MANAGE THE SUPPLIES IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, SINCE I'M ALWAYS THERE.
IN ANY CASE, I WAS PRETTY INTIMIDATED BY THE IDEA OF DECORATING SOMETHING SO LARGE.
BUT AS THEY SAY, "SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE."
I STILL CAN'T IMAGINE WHY SOMEONE WOULD WANT A DECO DESK.
I'M JUST SURPRISED THAT THE SCHOOL LET US DO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
MAYBE MARIYA-CHAN HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?
THAT MEDDLE-SOME BRAT...

THIS DESK IS PRETTY UNIQUE, BUT ALL THE GIRLS IN 2-A SEEM TO HAVE STRANGE REQUESTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. LIKE ARROWS, AND GLASSES...
I don't understand kids these days.
OH?
WHAT'S A LIGHT DOING ON AT THIS HOUR?
!!
IN ANY CASE, SINCE IT'S SO LATE AT NIGHT, ISN'T IT MY DUTY TO WALK HER HOME?
Y-YES...A TEACHER'S DUTY TO HIS STUDENT. NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES, OF COURSE.
I WAS QUITE SURPRISED WHEN THEY CAME TO ME.
AH! A GODDESS IN THE FLESH!
THE LIGHT FROM HER RADIANT SPIRIT SHINES AS BRILLIANTLY AS EVER! TRULY "EIKA HATSUGA!"*
BUT WHAT IS SHE DOING IN A SECOND-YEAR CLASSROOM?

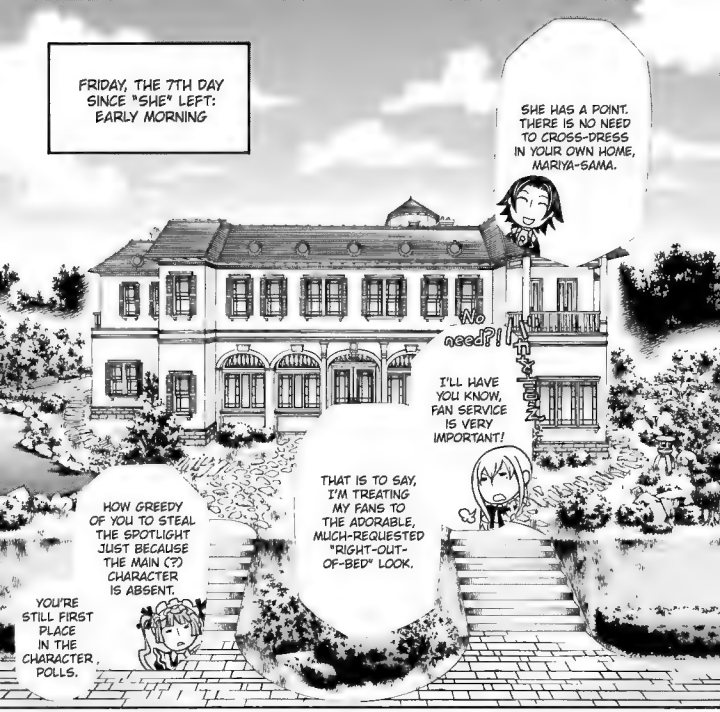
*A FOUR-CHARACTER SAYING THAT EXPRESSES HOW THE INNER BEAUTY OF SOMEONE SHINES THROUGH TO THE EXTERIOR.

I MEAN, WITH THAT PHOTO OF MIYAMAE-SAN ON HER DESK... ALONG WITH THE FLOWER VASE...
WHAT?!
I THOUGHT MIYAMAE-KUN WAS ABSENT BECAUSE OF A FAMILY EMERGENCY...
NO...
IT CAN'T BE...
*A REFERENCE TO MAYFLIES, WHO ARE BORN IN THE MORNING AND DIE BY EVENING. THE PHRASE IS USED TO EXPRESS THE EPHEMERAL NATURE OF LIFE.
BORN AT DAWN, DYING AT DUSK...*
I KNOW THAT HUMAN LIFE IS FRAGILE, BUT SHE WAS SO YOUNG!
AND YET, THE SIGNS ARE CLEAR.
ALTHOUGH MY WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED, I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE REASON TO PLACE A FLOWER AND A PHOTO ON SOMEONE'S DESK.

KLAT
KLAT
YOU DON'T KNOW ALL THE FACTS YET!
NO, STAY CALM, TOUICHIROU!
FIRST AND FOREMOST, I MUST FIND THE TRUTH!!

Prayer31
The Tale of the Week Without Kanako Part ②

I SLEPT SO WELL!
MMM!
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
AWAKENED BY THE SWEET SOUND OF BIRDS CHIRPING...
...ON MY OWN MATTRESS, TAILORED JUST FOR ME.
BACK IN MY OWN BEAUTIFUL ROOM...
IT'S SUCH A REFRESHING MORNING!
PERHAPS FOR YOU, BUT I'M SEIZED WITH A FEELING OF DISGUST.
THAT IS TO SAY, I'M DISGUSTED BY YOU AND YOUR GIRLISH ATTITUDE.


FRIDAY, THE 7TH DAY SINCE "SHE" LEFT: EARLY MORNING
SHE HAS A POINT. THERE IS NO NEED TO CROSS-DRESS IN YOUR OWN HOME, MARIYA-SAMA.
No need?!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, FAN SERVICE IS VERY IMPORTANT!
THAT IS TO SAY, I'M TREATING MY FANS TO THE ADORABLE, MUCH-REQUESTED "RIGHT-OUT-OF-BED" LOOK.
HOW GREEDY OF YOU TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT JUST BECAUSE THE MAIN (?) CHARACTER IS ABSENT.
YOU'RE STILL FIRST PLACE IN THE CHARACTER POLLS.

REGARDLESS, THAT MAIN (?) CHARACTER IS FINALLY COMING BACK TOMORROW.

IT'S BEEN A RATHER BUSY WEEK, HASN'T IT?
Sure has.
DECO BECAME A FAD...MORI HAIR BECAME A FAD...CARD GAMES BECAME A FAD...

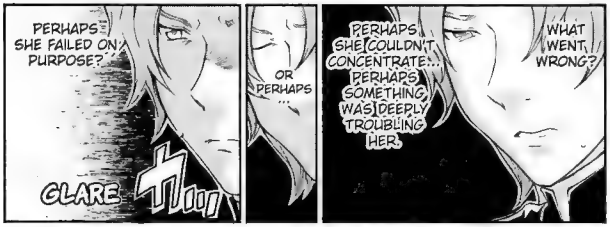
PERHAPS WE SHOULD SCRAP THE WHOLE STORY AND RE-NAME IT "MATSURIKA-HOLIC." SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO YOU, MR. EDITOR?
I GUESS "THAT CHARACTER" ISN'T IMPORTANT TO THE PLOT AFTER ALL.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE QUIET WITHOUT "THAT CHARACTER" AROUND...
...BUT I SUPPOSE EXCITING THINGS WILL HAPPEN NO MATTER WHAT.
"That Character"
MATSURIKA... WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO? THERE'S NO ONE THERE.

FRIDAY, DAY SEVEN: BEFORE HOMEROOM
SHIDOU-KUN! SHINOUJI-KUN!
GOOD MORNING, FATHER KANAE.
GOOD MORNING.
Y-YES, INDEED.
AH, MY LOVELY GODDESSES, YOU SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER THAN THE RISING SUN!
NO, THAT WON'T DO AT ALL! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! THIS IS NO TIME TO INDULGE IN THEIR BEAUTY!
DID YOU NEED SOME-THING FROM US, FATHER?
W-WELL...
I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT MIYAMAE-KUN.
Oh!
THE GIRL WHO LEFT US THE OTHER DAY?

"LEFT US"?
S-SO... MIYAMAE-KUN IS NO LONGER WITH US...?
A SUPER-NATURAL PLACE WHERE TIME FLOWS AT A DIFFERENT PACE THAN REALITY.
?
YES, SHE'S GONE TO A PLACE FAR AWAY, WHERE WE CANNOT REACH HER.
A GAP IN UNDERSTANDING EXISTS BETWEEN THEM. ONE THAT WILL NEVER BE FILLED.
IT IS AS I FEARED! BUT-WHY HAVE THEY NOT ANNOUNCED HER DEATH?
DO... DO YOU...
DO YOU KNOW WHY SHE LEFT US?
WELL...
I BELIEVE IT WAS BECAUSE SHE FLUNKED EVERY SUBJECT IN SCHOOL.

YOU DON'T MEAN... SUICIDE?!
?
*ENDING YOUR LIFE IS EASIER THAN FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES.
LIFE IS HARD, BUT DEATH IS EASY.*
WHY DIDN'T YOU SPEAK TO ME ABOUT IT, IF IT AILED YOU, SO?
WHY, OH WHY DID IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS, MIYAMAE-KUN?!
WHY WOULD YOU SEEK OUT SUCH A PROFOUND CONCLUSION FOR SOMETHING AS TRIVIAL AS FAILING A FEW TESTS?!

AS LONG AS YOU ATTEND CLASS, A RESULT LIKE THAT IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
NO, SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT ABOUT THIS. DID SHE REALLY FAIL EVERY SINGLE SUBJECT?


PERHAPS SHE FAILED ON PURPOSE?
GLARE
OR PERHAPS...
PERHAPS SHE COULDN'T CONCENTRATE... PERHAPS SOMETHING WAS DEEPLY TROUBLING HER.
WHAT WENT WRONG?

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
FATHER KANAE, IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
YOU'RE LOOKING RATHER PALE...

I MUST THINK OF A PROPER WAY TO ENCOURAGE THEM!
WELL, NOT QUITE PERFECT. SHIDOU-KUN COULD USE A LITTLE HELP IN THAT PARTICULAR— NO, STOP, TOUCHIROU. YOU'RE GETTING OFF-TOPIC.
OH, HOW HEAVENLY THE DEPARTURE OF YOUR DEAR FRIEND MUST WEIGHT ON YOUR TINY... OR RATHER, PERFECTLY-SIZED BOSOMS!
OH, HOW DREADFUL THE SORROW YOU MUST BEAR TO KEEP THOSE INNOCENT SMILES UPON YOUR COUNTENANCES!
INDEED. I THINK HE'S INTERESTED IN MORE THAN JUST ADMIRING OUR BEAUTY.
MARIYA-SAMA...
FATHER KANAE'S STEELY GAZE IS EVEN CREEPIER THAN USUAL TODAY.
YOU CANNOT MEND A BROKEN BOWL!*
MIYAMAE-KUN IS ALREADY GONE! WHAT YOU MUST FOCUS ON NOW IS THE HAPPINESS OF THOSE WHO STAND BEFORE YOU.
HOW SHAMEFUL THAT I SHOULD TROUBLE THOSE WHO NEED MY STRENGTH THE MOST!
EXCUSE US, FATHER KANAE.
WE WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR HOMEROOM.
W-WAIT A MOMENT!
MEND A BROKEN BOWL=TO OBSESS OVER SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT.
DIRRING DOOONG
キーンコーン
TO BE HONEST, NOW THAT *THAT CHARACTER* IS GONE, HE SEEMS LIKE MORE TROUBLE THAN HE'S WORTH.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE.
OH, THE WARNING BELL.

**STONE ON THE ROADSIDE*=INDICATING SOMETHING BORING, ORDINARY AND GENERALLY NO WORTH NOTICING.
SHIDOU-KUN...
SHINOUJI-KUN...
HOW FRAGILE YOU LOOK FROM BEHIND...
DEAR HIYAMAE-KUN IN HEAVEN, PLEASE WATCH OVER ME.
I, KANAE TOUCHIROU, SHALL BRING SMILES BACK TO THE FACES OF YOUR FRIENDS!
THINKING BACK, SHIDOU-KUN'S SMILE LOOKED RATHER MELANCHOLY, DIDN'T IT?
SHE LOOKED AT ME AS IF I WERE A STONE ON THE ROADSIDE...*
ON THE OTHER HAND, SHINOUJI-KUN'S ICY, COLD EXPRESSION HAD NOT CHANGED AT ALL.
I MUST DO SOMETHING!

DEAR MAMAN IN HEAVEN...
SHWMP
...
**TO DAMN OTHERS IS TO DIG TWO HOLES=IF YOU WRONG SOMEONE ELSE YOU ALSO WRONG YOURSELF

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY EXPRESS...
...THIS IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION?
"TO DAMN OTHERS IS TO DIG TWO HOLES,** PERHAPS?
NO, THE ONLY PART OF THAT SAYING THAT APPLIES IS THE HOLE.
"AN INCH AHEAD IS DARKNESS" **?
WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY TRUE, BUT I'M NOT SURE IT QUITE CAPTURES MY FEELINGS, I'M AFRAID.
***AN INCH AHEAD IS DARKNESS=WE CAN'T PREDICT THE FUTURE, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY MOMENTS AWAY

I MEAN, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
Huh?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
KLAT
SHIZU-SAMA...
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOMEONE HAS WORKED HIS WAY INTO THE TRAP I SET FOR MARIYA-SAMA.
HUH?
WHAT?! FATHER KANAE?

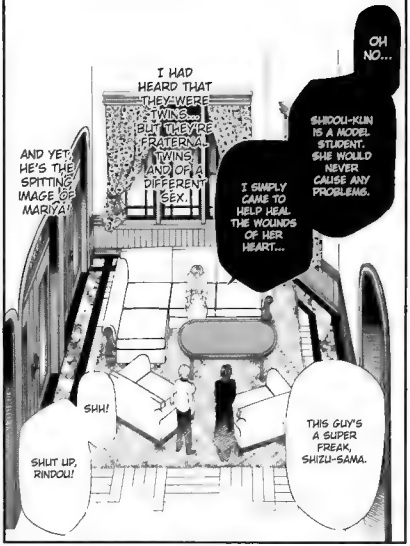
I'M DISAPPOINTED.
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!!
DIG HIM OUT RIGHT NOW, YOU IDIOT!
WOULDN'T IT BE MORE GREEN TO BURY HIM INSTEAD OF DIGGING HIM OUT?
YOU'RE DEMENTED!
And plant a tree on top.
For a better tomorrow!
そしてその上に木を植えましょう
地球の素敵な未来の為に。

...
ほっ
STEAM
STEAM
ほっ
ほっ
STEAM
DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL BE DRY SOON.
I'M SORRY, FATHER KANAE. YOUR CLOTHES WERE COVERED IN MUD, SO WE TOOK THE LIBERTY OF LAUNDERING THEM.
Hey!
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO BE CAUGHT IN SUCH A CLEARLY VISIBLE TRAP.
APOLOGIZE, RINDOU!
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BE IDIOTIC ENOUGH TO FALL INTO SUCH AN UNNATURAL-LOOKING, EASY-TO-SPOT HOLE IN THE GROUND...
IT'S FINE.
BUT WHY ARE YOU REPEATING YOURSELF?

I THOUGHT I WAS SIMPLY PAYING A VISIT TO SHIDOU-KUNG'S HOUSE, BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT I HAVE STEPPED INTO THE DEN OF SATAN.
AND AT A...
GLANCE
IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN STUCK IN THAT HOLE, YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST AN ARM, OR A LEG...OR A HEAD.
I SEE...
RINDOU HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE VIETCONG LATELY. I'M SURE HE HAD SOME HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE "MAIN EVENT" LYING IN WAIT.
BUT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, YOU WERE PRETTY LUCKY.

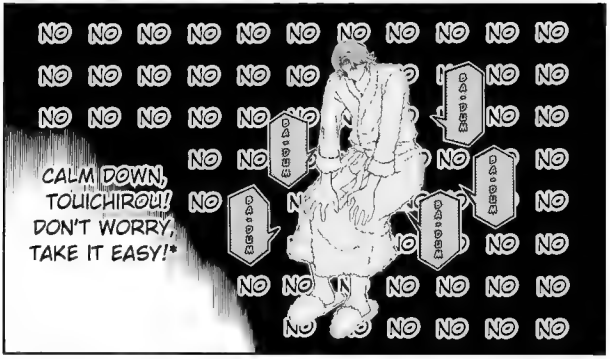
JOLT
I DON'T KNOW WHEN MARIYA OR MY PARENTS WILL RETURN, BUT I'D BE HAPPY TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY.
?!
I-IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
THEY LOOK SO ALIKE!!
GLARE
HAS MY SISTER CAUSED ANY TROUBLE?
AT ANY RATE, YOU SAID YOU WERE HERE TO VISIT MARIYA?

AH, HOW CAN I PUT THIS?
I NEVER KNEW A BOY COULD BE SO FRAGILE AND SWEET.
?


I HAD HEARD THAT THEY WERE TWINS... BUT THEY'RE FRATERNAL TWINS AND OF A DIFFERENT SEX.
AND YET, HE'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF MARIYA!
OH NO...
SHIDOU-KUN IS A MODEL STUDENT. SHE WOULD NEVER CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS.
I SIMPLY CAME TO HELP HEAL THE WOUNDS OF HER HEART...
SHH!
SHUT UP, RINDOU!
THIS GUY'S A SUPER FREAK, SHIZU-SAMA.

He smells...
...so wonderful.
WAFT
GASP

**"DON'T WORRY, TAKE IT EASY"="DON'T SWEAT IT, BRO. TOMORROW'S WIND WILL BLOW TOMORROW." (TRANS: AKIKO SWINBOU)



GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, TOUICHIROU!
HE MAY BE BEAUTIFUL, BUT HE'S SHOUTARO'S BROTHER!
BROTHER! THAT MEANS HE'S A BOY! A BOY, SO YOU'RE ANOTHER...
FATHER KANAE?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

** "BOYS BE AMBITIOUS"="SEE YA, MATE. GOOD LUCK." IN A WILLIAM S. CLARK-KIND OF WAY.

* "BE CAREFUL!!" IN BOTH CANTONESE, AND ENGLISH. AS IN "BEEP BEEP BEEP! EMERGENCY, EMERGENCY! (ROBOT VOICE)"

WHO KNOWS WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY?! EVEN THE FOOTNOTES ARE GETTING NONSENSICAL!
THIS IS A TOTAL DISASTER, TOUICHIROU! YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!
NO!!
I MUST GET OUT OF HERE ASAP!***
N-NO, IT'S JUST...
IL OFFRE SA CONFIANCE ET SON AMOUR...**

** "IL OFFRE SA CONFIANCE ET SON AMOUR..."=AN UNDERGARMENT MANUFACTURER THAT BRINGS YOU TRUST AND LOVE.

*** "ASAP"="I WANT SOME STEAMING HOT YAKISOBA ON THE COUNT OF THREE!" (TRANS: AKIKO SHINBOU)

I'M NORMAL, I SWEAR IT!!
DASH
FATHER KANAE?!
HM?
LURCH

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT MAN SENSES...
...THE WOMAN WITHIN YOU.

WHAT?
FATHER KANAE IS MORE CLEVER THAN HE LOOKS.
HIS EYES TOWARDS YOU WERE NOT THOSE OF A MAN LOOKING AT A MAN.

I THINK HE NOTICED.

AH...I'VE SUFFERED SOME ABRASIONS...
NEVER HURTS TO BE CAREFUL.
STILL, I WOULD KEEP MY GUARD UP AROUND HIM.
IMPOSSIBLE. YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
IF HE CAME TO TALK TO MARIYA-SAMA, HE MAY BE ONTO YOUR SECRET.
TOUCHIROU...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
I OUGHT TO HAVE THIS DISINFECTED AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE...
IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED WHEN I FELL IN THAT TRAP.
GOING TO VISIT THE HOME OF A STUDENT WHO ISN'T EVEN IN YOUR CLASS...IT'S IRRATIONAL! NO, IT'S ABSURD!
I WAS THRILLED AT THE THOUGHT OF SEEING SHIDOU-KUN WITHOUT MAKING OFFERINGS TO MISS HOUSE MOTHER... AND WITHOUT DEALING WITH HER UNREASONABLE TIME CONSTRAINTS.
THAT IS TO SAY, I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT SHE HAD RETURNED TO HOME AFTER MIYAMAE-KUN'S ABSENCE.
PLAF

IT'S ALMOST AS IF I'M LOST IN A MOONLIGHT REVERIE.
OH...SUCH AN OTHER-WORLDLY SMILE...
SHIDOU-KUN, SHINOUJI-KUN...
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
YES. THE PRACTICE FOR THE INTER-SCHOLASTIC MEET RAN A BIT LATE.
FATHER KANAE?
PERHAPS THE MISFORTUNE THAT HAS BEFALLEN ME IS PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE SINFUL THOUGHTS.
IN AN INDIRECT WAY, IT'S ALMOST AS IF I WAS HAPPY TO HEAR OF MIYAMAE-KUN'S DEATH.
BUT...
I AM NOT FIT TO STAND BEFORE YOU.
I'M SORRY, SHIDOU-KUN... I WOULD LOVE TO TALK, BUT AT PRESENT...
AH, BY THE WAY, FATHER KANAE...

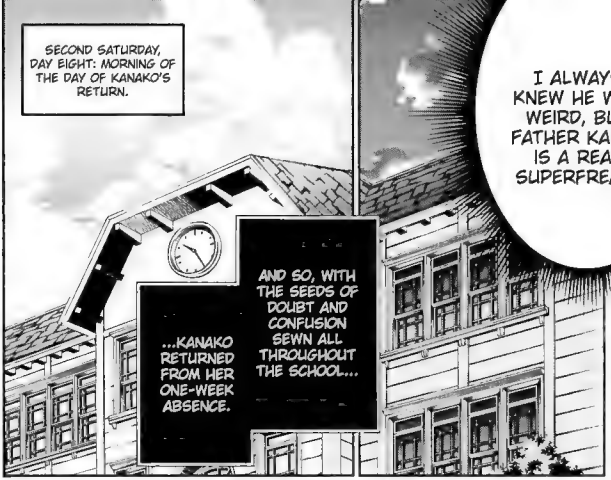
FATHER KANAE...
SWISH
HUH?
UM...
AND HERE I THOUGHT THE SUPERFREAK SEASON WAS OVER ALREADY...
...IS WHAT I WANTED TO SAY.
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING COMING FROM MY HOUSE IN NOTHING BUT A BATHROBE?"...
I REALIZE THAT A MAN IN THE SERVICE OF GOD SHOULD NOT SEARCH FOR LOVE.
DEAR MAMAN IN HEAVEN...
NOW THAT I'VE CALMED DOWN A BIT...
RATTLE
NURSE'S OFFICE

BWISH
AH...
I'M SORRY! I'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!
IT'S LATE, YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO YOUR...
YOU ARE THE STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT, ARE YOU NOT?
A LITTLE BANDAGE IS ALL YOU NEED
AH...
FLINCH
I...
OH, FATHER KANAE...
...EH?

HM...?
TWINGE

SHE...
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE IN SUCH A HURRY...

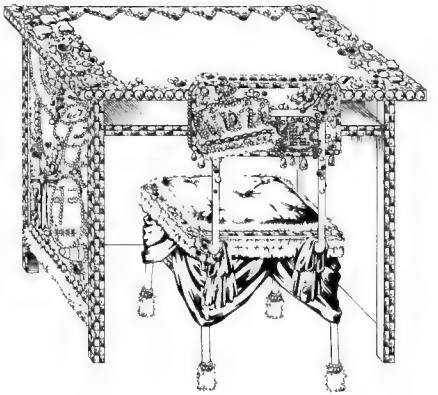
Her scent...
...was so wonderful...
AH...
トクン
BA-DUM
WHAT CAN I SAY?
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT FATHER KANAE WAS WALKING AROUND THE SCHOOL IN A BATHROBE.
ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A GHOST!
Oh?
IS SOMETHING WRONG, NATSURU?
N-NO, I'M FINE, AYARIN.
LET'S HEAD HOME, OKAY?


SECOND SATURDAY, DAY EIGHT: MORNING OF THE DAY OF KANAKO'S RETURN.
I ALWAYS KNEW HE WAS WEIRD, BUT FATHER KANAE IS A REAL SUPERFREAK!
AND SO, WITH THE SEEDS OF DOUBT AND CONFUSION SEWN ALL THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL...
...KANAKO RETURNED FROM HER ONE-WEEK ABSENCE.

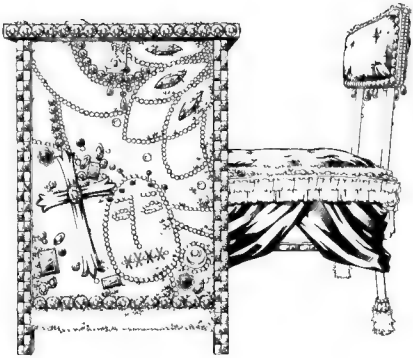
HUH?
?
?
...
?

MARIA HOLIC

Rear view



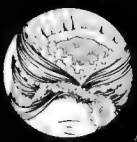
Side view



Special End of the Volume Bonus

Mori Master Honoka's

Hair Catalogue



Filled with lovely hairstyles!

Things you need

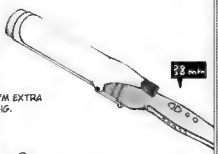
Yes, yes!

LET'S BEAUTY 用意するもの

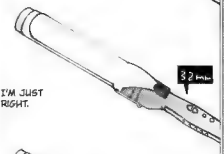
NICE HAIR!! AMAZING HAIR!!

Curling irons

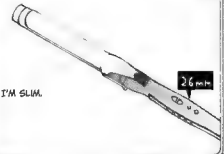
If you can hold three of these in one hand, you're pro!



I'M EXTRA BIG.



I'M JUST RIGHT.



I'M SLIM.

Curlers

Curling is just the beginning!

TO CURL

TO BE CURLED

Styling Products

Holds anything, from curls to cats!

FOR ROCK-HARD HOLD

FOR FLEXIBLE HOLD

Straight pins

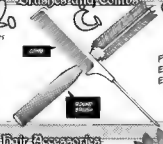
KEEPS THINGS IN PLACE

FOR TEMPORARY HOLDS

Push them in! Don't let them move!

Brushes and Combs

for hair that reaches the heaven!



FOR TEASING

FOR EVERYTHING ELSE

Hair Accessories

for that special touch

THE MORE, THE MERRIER

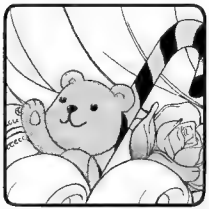
Blow dryer

With wind speed of 10 KMH, you're good to go

COMBINE IT WITH A BATH TUB, AND YOU HAVE A WEAPON OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!

File No. 1: **Fruity Parfait Sky-High Pile-Up Wavy Pigtails**

THERE ISN'T A GIRL IN THE WORLD WHO DOESN'T LIKE SWEETS. A MIXED PILE-UP INSPIRED BY WHIPPED CREAM. WITH SO MANY GIRLY FLOURISHES, IT'S PERFECT FOR ANY OCCASION.



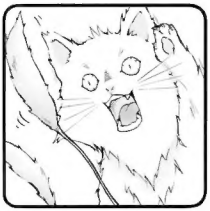
THIS ADORABLE TEDDY BEAR PEEKS OUT FROM A SEA OF CREAM AND CUTE ACCESSORIES.

A LARGE RIBBON PLACED AT THE ROOT OF THE EXTENSIONS BLURS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN FAKE AND REAL HAIR.

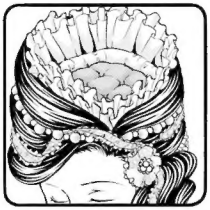
MODEL–
HITOTSUBASHI EI

File No. 2: Curly-Q Cat Tail Springy Soft Curl

AN ELEGANT STYLE WITH CASCADING CURLS ON THE SIDE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE CAT. IF IT FALLS, IT CAN MAKE A PERFECT TEN LANDING. THIS STYLE CAN BE A BIT ON THE HEAVY SIDE, SO TRAIN YOUR NECK WELL!



YOU MUST PLAY WITH THE CAT OFTEN, OR IT WILL GET BORED.

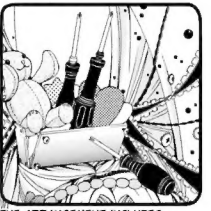


THE PLUSH THRONE ON TOP MAKES THE CAT'S COMFORT A PRIORITY. YOU MUST ALWAYS CONSIDER YOUR PET'S FEELINGS!

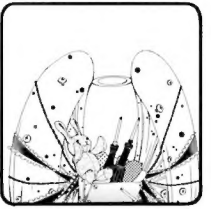
MODEL—
HABUTAE MI

File No. 3: Super Soft Wavy Wing Mega Pile

INSPIRED BY MOMOI-SAN, THESE GIANT PIGTAILS FORM ANGELIC WINGS. THE POP PRESENTATION KEEPS YOU IN A CHEERY MOOD, LIFTING YOUR SPIRITS DURING STUDY-TIME! THE HAIR IN FRONT IS ALSO CURLED TO INCREASE THE KAWAII-FACTOR TO THE MAX!



THE ARRANGEMENT INCLUDES MOMOI-SAN'S TREASURED TRIANGLE SCREWDRIVER. THE TOP OF THE HEAD IS REMINISCENT OF AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL THAT PRODUCES TOOLS AND TREASURES.

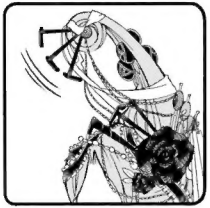


ALTHOUGH THE FOUNDATION OF MORI STYLE IS CREATING VOLUME WITH TEASED HAIR, YOU CAN BREAK THE RULES HERE BY BUILDING A BASE.

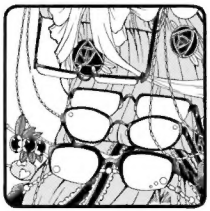
MODEL–
MOMOI SACHI

File No. 4: Summer-colored Linear Pile-Windy Forest and Fiery Mountain!

A LARGER-THAN-LIFE PRESENCE THAT WILL HAVE MARIE ANTOINETTE ROLLING IN HER GRAVE. THE FEMININE ARRANGEMENT WITH TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ACCESSORIES IS SURE TO BE A HIT WITH YOUR FAMILY. DESPITE THE FIREWORKS ON TOP, THE NECKLINE IS KEPT UNTOUCHED TO ACCENTUATE THE CASUAL VERSATILITY OF THE DESIGN.



INSPIRED BY A SPOOL OF THREAD, THE TOP IS PILED AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE TO CATCH EVERYONE'S ATTENTION



THIS TRADITIONAL ACCESSORY, THE KANZASHI, IS A FAMILY HEIRLOOM.

MODEL—
KIRI NANAMI

MARIA HOLIC
Volume 5

KADOKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by
Minari Endou

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KADOKAWA CORPORATION
2-13-3 Fujimi Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 102-8177 JAPAN

Translation/Dan Luffey
Lettering/HudsonYards Studio
Design/Nozomi Akashi
Editor/Lillian Diaz-Przybyl